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KERRANG!

FRANK IERO

NEW **BAND**, NEW **ALBUM** NEWS!

THE PRETTY RECKLESS

HOW **TAYLOR** TOOK ON **ANXIETY** – WITH MUSIC!

BLOODSTOCK

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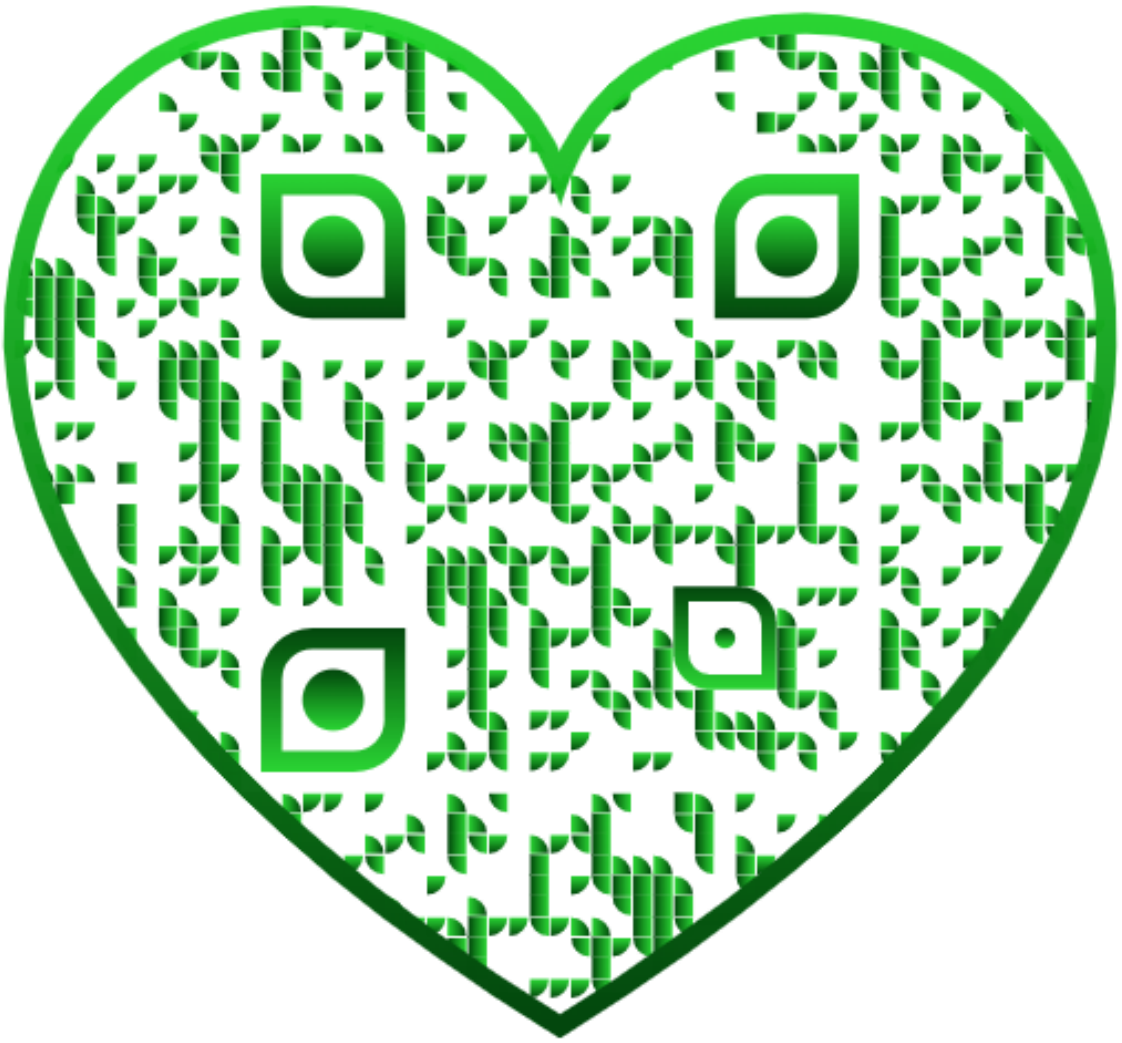

NIGHT PEOPLE PRESENTS...

YOU ME AT SIX

WITH SPECIAL GUEST

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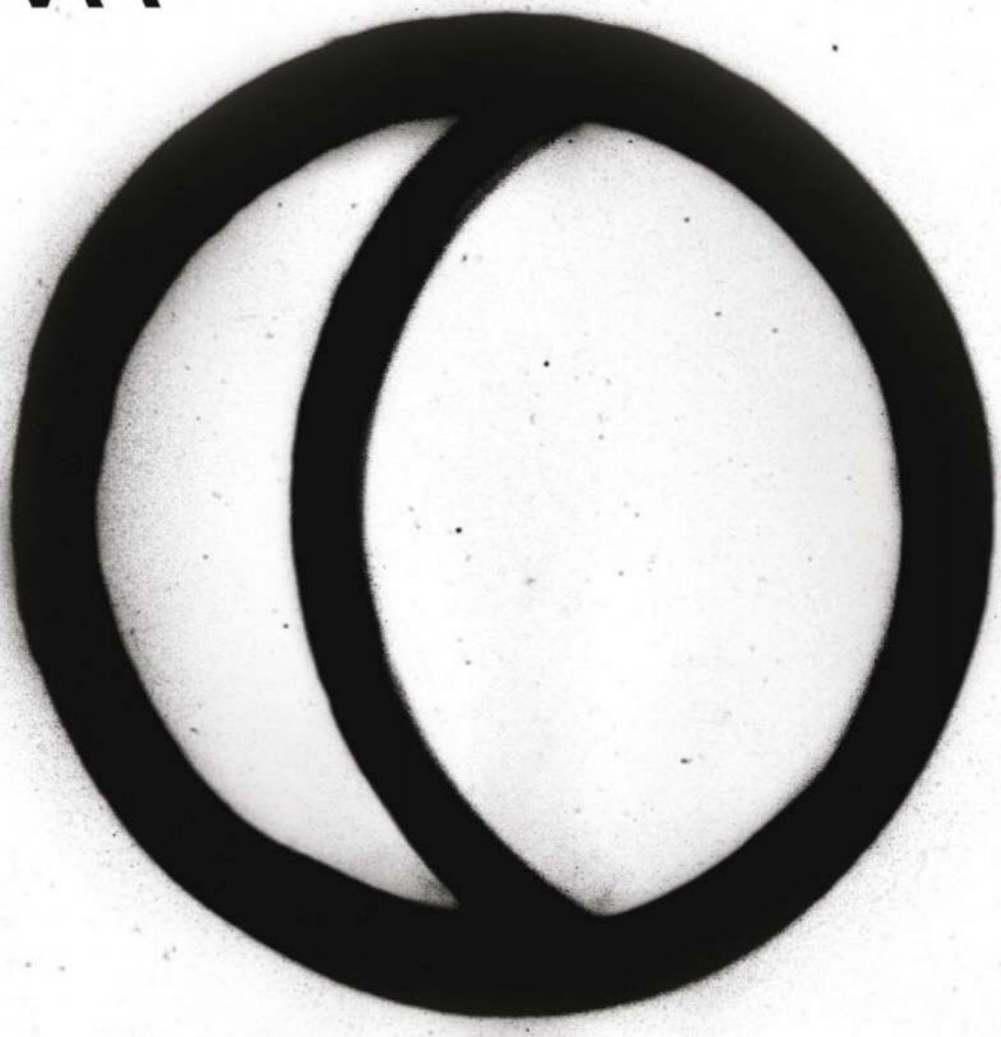

OCTOBER 2016

TUE 04
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WED 05
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THU 06
SWANSEA BRANGWYN HALL

THU 13
NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY

FRI 14
OXFORD O2 ACADEMY

SAT 15
CAMBRIDGE
CORN EXCHANGE

MON 17
INVERNESS
IRONWORKS

TUE 18
LEEDS O2 ACADEMY

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LIVERPOOL GUILD OF STUDENTS

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CONTENTS

ISSUE 1634 AUGUST 27, 2016

HELLO READERS, and welcome to this week's issue of Kerrang!. First things first, if you're going to Reading & Leeds this weekend, you need this issue. I hope you enjoy page after page of interviews with all the weekend's biggest stars, and of course, have the most amazing time moshing your head off in a field. But also, if you're a fan of twenty one pilots – which seems like pretty much all of you these days – then you need to check out Emily Carter's brilliant interview with Josh Dun, starting on p18. It's a fascinating chat, that shines some light on the future of one of modern rock's most important bands. Send us your festival pics, using #Kommunity! Enjoy the issue!

James

NEWS

ON THE COVER:

Not content with making a load of noise with Death Spells, **Frank Iero** chats to us about his awesome future band plans **(p4)**. Plus, **Taylor Momsen** reveals her personal demons **(p6)**, and **Tom Morello** gets angry. Very angry **(p8)**.

FEATURES

ON THE COVER: **twenty one pilots** take a look back at their whirlwind of a journey, before preparing to blow **Reading & Leeds** apart this weekend **(p18)**, before we catch up with the likes of **Biffy Clyro**, **Fall Out Boy** and **Parkway Drive** for our huge festival preview **(p24)**. On top of that, **Green Day** get set to change the world (again) with their new record Revolution Radio **(p40)**.

POSTERS

ON THE COVER: Wall-melting shots of **PVRIS**, **Moose Blood**, **MCR** and more **(p30)**.

LIVES

A Ben Bruce-less **Asking Alexandria** take on the capital **(p46)**, while **Slayer**, **Mastodon**, **Twisted Sister** and more metal heroes annihilate Bloodstock **(p48)**.

REVIEWS

There's a new **A Day To Remember** album! But is it any good? Well, obvs **(p50)**. Elsewhere, **Devin Townsend** returns with more brilliance **(p51)**, while **Rob Zombie** takes us inside Hellbilly Deluxe **(p53)**.

GIGS

Good Charlotte get set to bring all the sing-alongs to their upcoming UK shows **(p56)**, before we find out the history of Exeter's coolest venue, **The Cavern (p58)**.

BLOODSTOCK FESTIVAL p48

Good. Wholesome. Family. Fun.

GREEN DAY p40

Wake us up, when the high note ends

COVER PHOTO: SMALLZ RASKIND / CONTOUR BY GETTY IMAGES **CONTENTS PHOTO:** ANDREW LIPOVSKY

A LITTLE PATIENCE ...YEAH

MAN, **FRNKIERO ANDTHE CELLABRATION** IS *SOOOO* LAST YEAR. HERE, FRANK TELLS US ABOUT HIS NEW BAND, **THE PATIENCE**, WHAT THEY SOUND LIKE, AND WHY IT'S TIME FOR A REBRAND...

Unless you've been living under a rock, with cotton wool in your ears (and even then...), you'll know that Frank Iero has been tearing up the UK as of late with Death Spells, his electro-punk project with longtime friend and collaborator James Dewees. But he's got more new music planned for when Death Spells slows down. Including a rebranded version of the cellabration. We shoved a tape recorder in Frank's face. This is what he said...

FRANK, WHAT'S COMING UP FOR YOU AFTER THIS DEATH SPELLS RUN?

FRANK IERO (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "Well, there's a new record coming out at the end of October. It's funny to me, when a band puts out a new record, they're always like, 'Our band has to reinvent themselves, do something new, push the envelope, explore uncharted territory!' and it comes out and people are like, 'No! That band shouldn't sound like this!' Everybody wants you to push the envelope, but still sound like your first record. So, I thought the way around that is, every time, just to make a new band. And that new band this time is frnkiero andthe patience. I'm very excited about it!"

SO HOW IS THE BAND SOUNDING?

"It's weird. What's really funny to me is that it's another 12 songs. The cellabration was 12 songs. Death Spells is 12 songs. The patience is 12 songs. With cellabration I started over from my youth, and the things and bands that were inspirational and that made me want to join a band. This record is very much about my teens and my adolescent years – things that happened to me and shaped my personality. Sonically, it's light years away from cellabration."

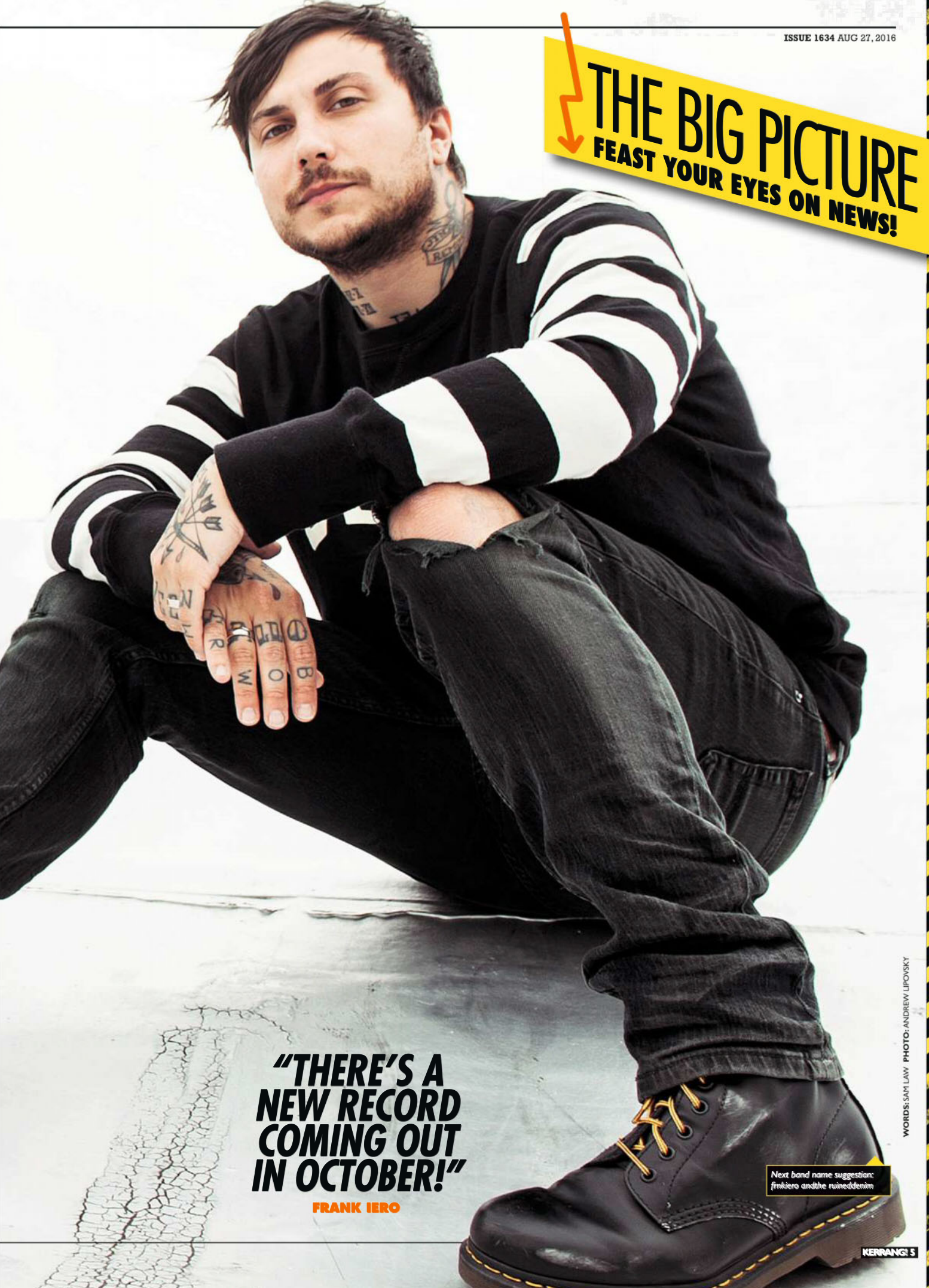
IN WHAT WAY?

"Well, I did that record in my basement. I wanted it to feel like you were listening in on it, rather than listening *to* it. This record needed the power that the songs required. I feel that when you're writing a record, the songs tell you what they want to sound like. These songs demanded to sound way bigger! We went in with Ross Robinson and Steve Evetts and made a record in 17 days. I can safely say it's one of the proudest things I've ever worked on!"

For more news from Frank Iero head to ***Kerrang.com!***

THE BIG PICTURE

FEAST YOUR EYES ON NEWS!



"THERE'S A NEW RECORD COMING OUT IN OCTOBER!"

FRANK IERO

Next band name suggestion: frnkiero andthe ruineddenim

WORDS: SAM LAW PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

THE BIG STORY

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING EVER!

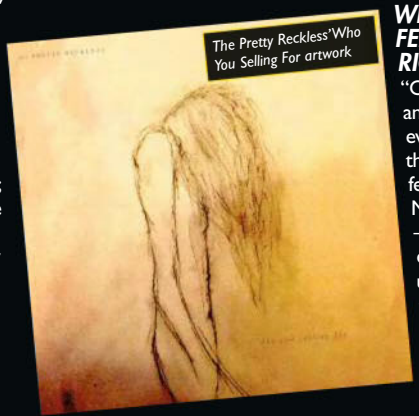
TO HELL AND BACK

ON THE LAST **THE PRETTY RECKLESS** RECORD, **TAYLOR MOMSEN** WAS CONVINCED SHE WAS GOING TO HELL. THIS TIME AROUND, HER SOUL NEEDS SAVING FROM MORE PERSONAL DEMONS…

THERE'S BEEN a very big Taylor Momsen-shaped hole in the rock world for far too long… but that's about to change! The Pretty Reckless recently unveiled their third album, Who You Selling For, which is due for release on October 21, via Razor & Tie. And with the first single, Take Me Down, already whetting appetites, we decided it was time to catch up with Taylor at her New York City home to talk new music, life, depression, anxiety, and selling your soul to the Devil in the name of rock'n'roll…

HI, TAYLOR! FIRST, CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE TITLE WHO YOU SELLING FOR?

TAYLOR MOMSEN (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "Well, it's a song off the record, and it's thought-provoking; I wanted to have this record make people think a little bit broader than just an obvious statement. By putting the question out there, it creates a diversity that will allow the listener to better understand the record."


The Pretty Reckless' Who You Selling For artwork

SO WHAT DOES THE TITLE MEAN TO YOU?

"It means something different to me every day (*laughs*). It questions, 'What am I doing with my life?' 'What is the world doing?' and, 'What is going on?' So it means something different to me every time I look at it. That song really just describes the record."

IS 'WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH YOUR LIFE?' SOMETHING YOU QUESTION OFTEN?

"On a *minute*-ly basis (*laughs*)."

THE COVER ART IS PRETTY CREEPY… WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?

"It's a very direct representation of how I feel at the moment. I wanted it to be artistic and emote how I'm feeling at this junction in my life. An artist came to me with this image, and it was just perfect! The artist is a close friend who wants to remain anonymous, but they had heard the record and worked based off of the music to create that image."

WHAT ARE YOU FEELING IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW, THEN?

"Confusion, depression and anxiety, just like everybody else. I'm sure that's how most people feel most of the time. Music's my coping device – it's where I'm allowed to express all those bottled-up emotions that you're technically supposed to hide from the world; it's my salvation. It's my outlet. And when I'm not making music I start to lose my mind, and I start to lose my identity, and that's a very hard thing that I struggle with."

HAS YOUR DEPRESSION IMPROVED WHILE WORKING ON THE ALBUM?

"I wouldn't say it improved (*laughs*), but I just keep getting older, so I think it keeps changing. It doesn't necessarily get better, it just kinda morphs into a different form every day. [Anxiety and depression is] something that I've had my whole life – I'm a very anxious person, but as I get older it just kinda changes and morphs into different forms, and comes out in my art. Writing is the greatest gift you could be given as far as I'm concerned, because it really allows for an outlet to keep yourself sane."

SPEAKING ABOUT SONGWRITING – WHAT'S TAKE ME DOWN ABOUT?

"It's a classic rock'n'roll tune, which was inspired by the Robert Johnson story of going to the crossroads and selling his soul for rock'n'roll – which I kind of did in one way (*laughs*). I gave my life to the music; I gave everything else up for it. And it's a simple story about giving your life to something you love so much and you need it so bad that you're willing to sell your soul for it."

ARE THERE DOWNSIDES TO SELLING YOUR SOUL TO ROCK'N'ROLL?

"Of course (*laughs*)! Just ask Robert Johnson – I think he was poisoned at 27. So it does take a toll. But at the same time, it's everything. That's the whole point – you have no choice, it is who you are, it is your soul, it is everything. If you don't give everything to it, you're not going to succeed."

DO YOU EVER PLAN ON ACTING AGAIN, OR IS MUSIC YOUR SOLE FOCUS?

"I quit acting eight years ago! I haven't acted since I was 15 years old, and I have no intention of going back to it. I'm not an actress – to me that's my childhood. It's like asking if I'm going back to junior high (*laughs*). Like, no, I don't plan on going back to junior high…"

Who You Selling For is out October 21 via Razor & Tie

Someone could get hurt by that shirt's spikes. Pretty reckless behaviour, if you ask us

"WHEN I'M NOT MAKING MUSIC I START TO LOSE MY MIND"

TAYLOR MOMSEN

WORDS: JENNYFER J.WALKER **PHOTO:** SPLASH NEWS

And that's why we call Tom the real Cap-tain America

THIS IS TOM MORELLO. HE WANTS TO F**K SH*T UP

PROPHETS OF RAGE HAVE RECORDED ORIGINAL MUSIC. UNLESS YOU'RE DONALD TRUMP, YOU MIGHT WANT TO READ ON…

PROPHETS OF RAGE, the supergroup featuring members of Rage Against The Machine, Public Enemy and Cypress Hill, have announced that they'll release their debut EP, The Party's Over, on August 26 via Caroline Records. Featuring live versions of Public Enemy and RATM classics, as well as an updated studio version of Public Enemy's Prophets Of Rage, it's going to be awesome. Still, it's the original title-track that's got us most excited. We thought we best get legendary guitarist Tom Morello to tell us more…

SO, WHAT'S THE TITLE-TRACK ABOUT?

TOM MORELLO (*GUITAR*): "The Party's Over reflects the insane election we're having in the United States, where we're forced to choose between a racist, misogynist demagogue who suggests war crimes as foreign policy and a lifelong career politician who's best known for kissing Wall Street's ass. The idea that we could find a liveable future with either candidate is one we reject. In that regard, the party's over."

LET'S TALK ABOUT POLITICS. WHAT'S FUELLED DONALD TRUMP'S RISE FROM A JOKE CANDIDATE TO WHERE HE IS NOW?

"I think there's a righteous sense of anger and rejection of the status quo [in the U.S.], which has been funnelled by Trump's divide-and-rule rhetoric.

> ***"TRUMP TELLS YOU THE ENEMY IS MUSLIMS. BUT IT'S WALL STREET"***
>
> **TOM MORELLO**

Many of his followers are decent people. They're the American white working class who have been left behind by globalisation. But rather than realising that their true enemies are their corporate masters on Wall Street, Trump tells them that the enemy is Mexican people and Muslims and anyone who offends him with a tweet."

AND DO YOU THINK PROPHETS CAN DO SOME GOOD WITHIN THAT CLIMATE?

"One of the reasons we want to inject our voice into this election cycle was that I agree with both the [Bernie] Sanders and Trump campaigns that the status quo is broken and can't fix itself. But we offer a different point of view about the kind of world we're aiming for. One that is more humane, and one we're willing to fight for without compromise and apology."

FINALLY, CAN YOU HURRY UP AND BRING PROPHETS TO THE UK, PLEASE?

"There are no immediate plans, but we intend that Prophets Of Rage will be a globe-spanning hip-hop-rock steamroller. You can't escape us. We're coming."

For more Prophets Of Rage news, head to ***Kerrang.com***

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS **PHOTO:** GETTY

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ROCK GO... GIBBERISH

Yellowcard's post-band plans suddenly came into focus...

Tonight Alive's Big Lebowski remake was surprisingly good

BOWLING FOR MOOLAH!

THIS MONTH, YOUR FAVOURITE BANDS MADE A WHOLE LOAD OF CASH FOR A GOOD CAUSE BY ROLLING HEAVY PLASTIC BALLS IN A STRAIGHT LINE AT WOODEN PINS!

Not everyone on Team Against The Current got the cap memo

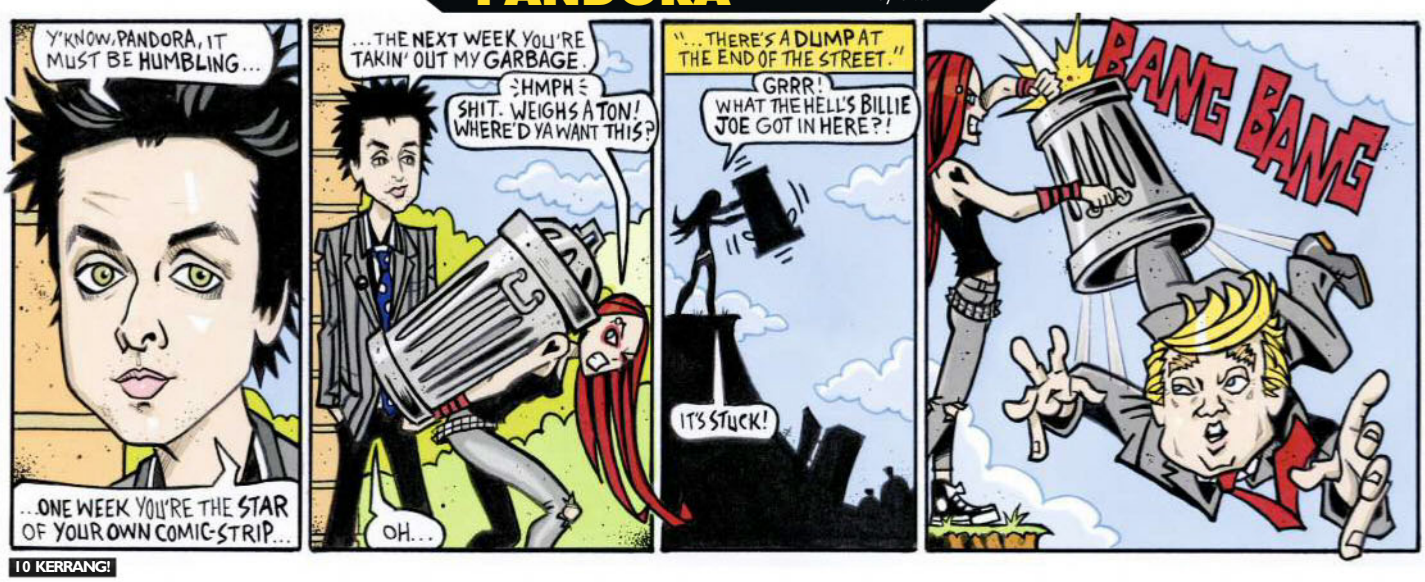
What does every pop-punk band want to do when they're not playing pop-punk? Eat pizza? Yes, but that's not what we're thinking of. Go on, have another go. Moan about their hometown? Yes, that too, but that's not... Oh, never mind. What we're trying to say is that pop-punk bands *love* bowling. And so, on August 3 this year, the ninth annual Vans Warped Tour Charity Bowling Tournament took place in Phoenix, Arizona. In third place came Every Time I Die. In second, New Found Glory. And your champions? Yellowcard! More importantly, tonnes of money was raised for the Living The Dream foundation. Well done to all!

Anyway, we were there, too. And this is what went down!

New Found (So Close To) Glory

Sleeping With Sirens: nope, we've no idea either

PANDORA BY RAY ZELL Rayzell.com



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THEY'VE DONE IT! **TWENTY ONE PILOTS** AND THEIR HEATHENS HAVE TOPPLED **BIFFY**'S REIGN AT THE TOP. BUT **NECK DEEP** AND **TWIN ATLANTIC** ARE CLOSING IN…

	WEEKS ON CHART	HIGHEST POSITION	ARTIST	TITLE	LABEL
1	5	1	TWENTY ONE PILOTS	Heathens	FUELED BY RAMEN
2	4	2	TWIN ATLANTIC	No Sleep	RED BULL
3	2	3	NECK DEEP FT. MARK HOPPUS	December (Again)	HOPELESS
4	8	1	BIFFY CLYRO	Animal Style	14TH FLOOR
5	8	2	BLINK-182	Bored To Death	BMG
6	3	4	PIERCE THE VEIL	Circles	FEARLESS
7	4	1	BMTH	Avalanche	SONY
8	8	4	RHCP	Dark Necessities	WARNER BROS
9	8	8	MOOSE BLOOD	Knuckles	HOPELESS
10	2	10	DON BROCO	Everybody	SHARPTONE
11	5	9	VANT	Karma Seeker	PARLOPHONE
12	9	3	TWENTY ONE PILOTS	Ride	FUELED BY RAMEN
13	4	12	CREEPER	The Honeymoon Suite	ROADRUNNER
14	11	4	ASKING ALEXANDRIA	Here I Am	SUMERIAN
15	4	15	FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES	Snake Eyes	KOBALT
16	13	1	PANIC! AT THE DISCO	Don't Threaten Me With A Good Time	FUELED BY RAMEN
17	4	9	GREYWIND	Car Spin	SPINEFARM
18	1	18	SET IF OFF	Something New	EQUAL VISION
19	1	19	BIFFY CLYRO	Howl	14TH FLOOR
20	1	20	WORLD WAR ME	War Zone	SHARPTONE

ROB DAMIANI, DON BROCO

IS EVERYBODY THE FIRST TASTE OF THE NEXT DON BROCO ALBUM?
"Yeah, I mean, this is the first taste of new music from our next album, whatever that turns into. It's an indication of where things are potentially going for us. When we write albums, we normally do it on a song-by-song basis but if people want a taste of what the new Don Broco is going to be like, this song is a pretty good starting point."

WHAT'S THE SINGLE ABOUT?
"When things go wrong. It's a song about when things aren't quite going to plan and it gets pretty fucked up."

YOU WENT TO THE USA TO FILM THE VIDEO – HOW DID YOU FIND THAT?
"It was insane. We've never been to Atlanta before. We filmed it in Athens, this tiny little town where so much music has come from. R.E.M., Neutral Milk Hotel and The B-52s are from there."

FRANK CARTER, FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES

DOES SNAKE EYES POINT TO THE FUTURE OF YOU AND THE RATTLESNAKES?
"Definitely! The future is about growing and learning and constantly striving to be braver and better."

HOW DID THE SONG COME ABOUT?
"It came about after I found myself making the same mistakes from the same poor decisions, and feeling like I needed to make a change."

IS THERE ANYTHING ABOUT THE SONG THAT PEOPLE DON'T KNOW?
"Yeah, the video has a serious twist at the end."

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ISSUE 1634 AUG 27, 2016

(L – R): Spencer Ussery (bass/vocals), CJ Ridings (guitar), Thomas Gonzalez (guitar), Joe Sweat (drums)

FRESH BLOOD
ROCK'S BREAKING BANDS

BIG JESUS

MEET THE GOOD CHARLOTTE PROTEGÉS WHO AREN'T QUITE WHAT YOU'D EXPECT FROM GOOD CHARLOTTE PROTEGÉS…

WHO ARE THIS LOT, THEN?
This is Big Jesus from Atlanta, and they play what guitarist CJ Ridings would describe simply as "loud". He's underselling it, mind, what they really do is mix huge, fuzzy, '90s-inspired riffs with soft vocal lines and loads of melody. It's heavy in places, light in others, and bloody brilliant. "I always just say 'loud', though," CJ explains. "'Cause if you see us live, that's the first thing you notice." You'll hear it for yourself, as the band tour the UK and Europe on separate runs with Good Charlotte and Citizen this month.

HOLD ON, SUPPORTING GOOD CHARLOTTE? IS THEIR NOISE GOING TO WORK AT A POP-PUNK SHOW?
Well, CJ certainly thinks it will. Make no mistake, Big Jesus know they're not a pop-punk band, but they have had loads of support from that world. "Alan [Day] from Four Year Strong likes our band and wanted to produce our record," CJ reveals. "And the guys in Man Overboard pressed cassettes for us a few years back. A lot of pop-punk bands have said they dig the record." What draws them in? "It's the melody. We have very thickly-layered melody and harmony throughout everything, and pop-punk has always appreciated that."

"WE WANT TO BRING NASTY GUITARS BACK TO RADIO!"

CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR 'EM. WHAT ELSE HAVE THEY GOT GOING ON?
New album Oneiric drops at the end of September. That's a while away yet, but it's worth the wait. Until then, their last EP One has four tracks on it that'll be on Oneiric. Bit weird, but CJ explains it pretty well. "We weren't sure whether our label would want to re-release One or do something totally new, and we ended up doing both with this Frankenstein album. I'm super-happy with how it came together, though, it doesn't sound like it was Frankenstein'd."

LOOKING FORWARD TO IT. THAT 'FUZZY, '90S-INSPIRED' SOUND SEEMS TO BE DOING WELL AT THE MOMENT – ANY IDEA WHY?
Other than that it's awesome? CJ has a few ideas: "I always compare what's happening now to what happened in the '80s going into the '90s, where there was a lot of electronic stuff going on before Nirvana took over the world. I feel like that's happening now. Everyone was super into EDM, and every big pop track on the radio sounds like an EDM song with some pretty singing on top, and I think people are sick of it. One thing that I'd love to do is bring nasty, heavy, fuzzy guitars back to radio." That's a lofty aim, but there's no reason Big Jesus won't achieve it…

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

FOR FANS OF: Superheaven, Silversun Pickups.
HEAR: Oneiric lead single, SP.
MORE INFO: Bigjesus.net
CHECK OUT: The band tour with Good Charlotte and Citizen in the UK and Europe this month. They then release Oneiric in September!
DON'T MISS: Big Jesus and more killer new bands on Alex Baker's Fresh Blood show on Wednesdays at 10pm on K! Radio.

WORDS: RYAN DE FREITAS

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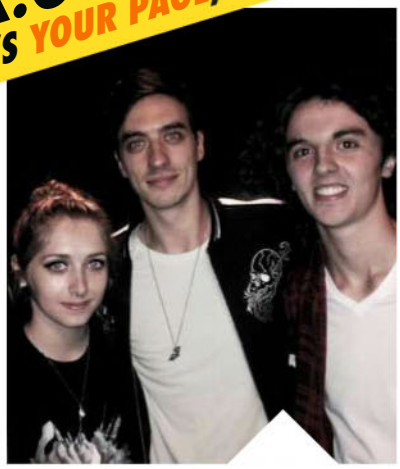


ONES AND HEROES

"Me and the Mrs with Gus from Young Guns," says @adampaulfreddo. Whoa, guys. Kudos for this! Hell, you even knew to co-ordinate with the plain white tee. Now that's taking the initiative!

BOULEVARD OF BROKEN TEES

"In celebration of Bang Bang, I made myself a sweet T-shirt," says @killthealien6. Loving your work… you have our address, right?!

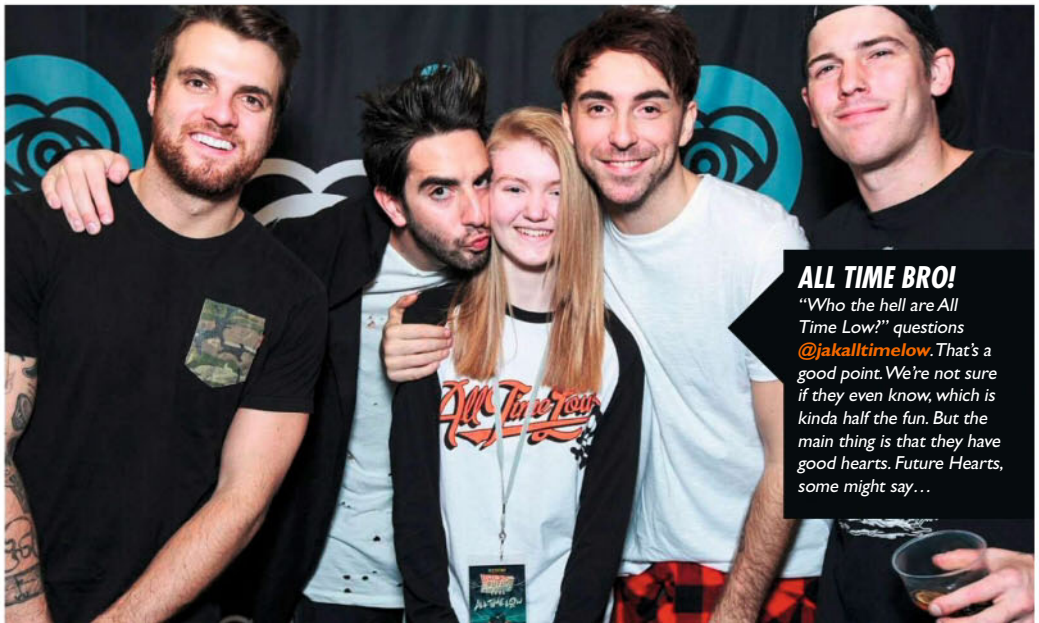
THREE CHEERS FOR DARK BUNNY

"I finally finished my TCFSR art project!" says @xXDark_BunnyXx. We almost thought this was the original itself… and so we're setting you a challenge: do The Black Parade for us next, yeah? Yeah? Yeah!

WINNER!

THE FINAL EPI-SELFIE

"I ran into Asking Alexandria before their concert in London – they were shopping in H&M!" says @HoIBVB_FIR. This is extra brilliant because it was totally unplanned… BABYMETAL would say it could only be the work of the Fox God! Congratulations, you've won a meet-and-greet with the one and only Bullet For My Valentine. Choice of shopping centre location not included.



ALL TIME BRO!

"Who the hell are All Time Low?" questions @jakalltimelow. That's a good point. We're not sure if they even know, which is kinda half the fun. But the main thing is that they have good hearts. Future Hearts, some might say…

TEAR IN MY ART

"My name's Blurryface and I care what you think!" says @hollypa73420440. Well, Blurryface, seeing as you're asking, we think this drawing of Tyler and Josh is pretty flippin' great. There's also some surprising attention to detail here – those faces aren't blurry at all. In fact, are you sure it's you, Blurryface? Hmm?

PANINK! AT THE DISCO

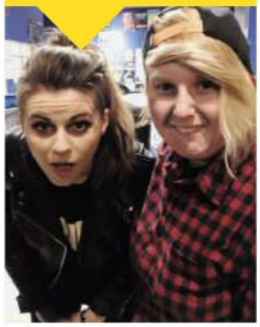
"Oops," says @nerdyforareason. Just oops. That's it. Did your arm just fall into a well of awesome band ink or something? Permanent or not, you clearly have a top-class taste in music there and it's one to be proud of. Maybe you should become a tattoo artist?!

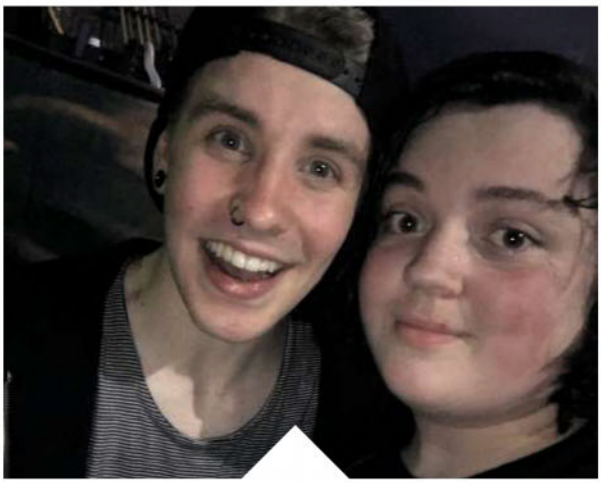
NOTHING ABOVE, NOTHING PHOTO

"Went to a Death Spells show and met Frank Iero!" says the super-lucky @disastroushate. "He's such a nice person." That he is. What's with his bag, though? Was he off to start another new band or something? (Turn back to page four, wink wink…)

GRIN GUNN

"Pardon the face," apologises @ThatMadRocker. No need to be sorry, dude, but you're excused on the grounds of having a photo with one of the coolest people ever. Lynn does look confused about this whole situation, though. IT'S A CAMERA, LYNN!





BIG SMILES AND SETBACKS

"Here's me with Patty Walters," says @Bubbles_josh. He's a cheery chap, that As It Is frontman is. It almost looks like HE asked YOU for the photo? Which makes it even cooler. If you ever come near the K! office, can we have our photo with you, too?

WE DON'T HAVE TO DRAW

"Love it when two great things come together," points out @Angelus619. Pen and paper? Sausage and mash? Tea and biscuits? Rock and roll? Oh, you mean Andy Black and Kerrang!. Gotcha. Well, in that case, thank you. We love it, too.

NEXT WEEK

WIN! A SIGNED JOSH FARRO Fender GUITAR!

It's been a good while since Josh Farro visited UK shores, which is why we're getting feverish over the thought of his upcoming November tour. But wait – there's more. One of you lucky readers will get to meet the man himself at one of the shows, where he will present you with… A SIGNED FENDER GUITAR! Yes, we know it sounds too good to be true, but we're being deadly serious: one lucky reader will be winning the competition of a lifetime. Good luck!

TAG YOUR STUFF WITH #KOMMUNITY

*Show us via Twitter (**@KerrangMagazine**), Instagram (**kerrangmagazine_**) or **feedback@kerrang.com**!*

Um, guys… If you're here, who's onstage?

THE GREATEST SHØW ØN EARTH!

READING & LEEDS FESTIVAL HAS SEEN ITS SHARE OF CAREER-DEFINING SETS ACROSS THE YEARS. NOW, AHEAD OF **TWENTY ONE PILOTS**' RETURN TO THE UK, EMILY CARTER TALKS EXCLUSIVELY WITH **JOSH DUN** ABOUT THEIR REMARKABLE RISE, LIVING WITH PRESSURE, AND THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE WATCHING WORLD THIS WEEKEND...

'*We might not be prepared for what's about to hit us.*'

This was our final – and rather astute – assessment when we last spoke at length with Josh Dun and Tyler Joseph in November 2015, for our first-ever twenty one pilots cover feature (K!1593). We were, of course, referring to the explosive Ohio duo's then-upcoming UK headline tour, which received a perfect 5K reception just two weeks later in the magazine (K!1595). But what a wild ride it's been since then, and how true that statement still stands. A superb new single, Heathens, on the blockbusting Suicide Squad soundtrack. A platinum-certified album with their fourth full-length, Blurryface. Over 500 *million* YouTube views on that record's breakout single, Stressed Out. A colossal sold-out arena tour, dubbed the Emøtiønal Røadshøw, taking America by storm. And that's just the tip of the iceberg.

"It does feel a little bit crazy," laughs Josh Dun – the band's beating heart to Tyler's emotional soul

– when Kerrang! lists all those milestones to him en route to sound-check for a show in Alabama today. The 28-year-old drumming sensation is in infectiously high spirits as he reflects on just how much has happened to himself and bandmate Tyler since we last caught up – and even more so since the two first started making music together.

And with a highly-anticipated set this weekend at *the* festival renowned for firing artists into truly stratospheric leagues, what better time to take a look back on what's brought Columbus' hottest band to this point, and how they're set to be the talking point of Reading & Leeds…

IN THE NINE MONTHS THAT HAVE PASSED SINCE WE LAST PROPERLY SPOKE, JOSH, THINGS SEEM TO HAVE ONLY GOTTEN BIGGER FOR TWENTY ONE PILOTS. IS THAT HARD TO GRASP ON THE INSIDE OF THIS WHIRLWIND?

JOSH DUN (*DRUMS*): "I always wonder this, when you see a band go through the steps but then eventually end up at this 'larger place'. A lot of people will hop on a little bit later and say, 'This band came out of nowhere,' or, 'They were an overnight success.' Tyler and I have been playing music for six years now, and it has gone by relatively quickly, but we've put in a lot of work, time and energy to get to this point, and it definitely doesn't feel like it's happened overnight. It's an interesting perspective, though. But, at the same time, the shows that we did four years ago, right up until the ones that we did last year, are shows that have all led us to this point, and every single one of them has been a learning process for us to be able to do what we do now. If we were to be thrown into this position that we're in now right away, then I think we'd be a little bit in over our heads, and we wouldn't know exactly what to do. We've learned a lot over the past few years."

"EVERY NIGHT WE PLAY, I STILL FEEL LIKE NO-ONE WILL SHOW UP"

JOSH DUN

A MASSIVE INDICATOR OF YOUR SUCCESS IS BLURRYFACE RECENTLY HITTING ONE MILLION ALBUM SALES…

"That's a huge accomplishment for us, and it's something that we're really proud of. It's exciting for us to know that people are still into the album, and people are still listening to it, and even *spending money* on it, which is something that happens less and less in today's culture. Whether it's people illegally downloading albums, or giving it to their friends, the fact that they're still listening and investing themselves – even if it's just their *time* – is a crazy thing, and it's really cool."

DID YOU EVER EXPECT THIS KIND OF RESPONSE WHEN YOU WERE IN THE STUDIO WORKING ON THESE SONGS WITH TYLER?

"It's hard to put yourself in that place when you're recording an album – sometimes that can get a little scary or stressful. Obviously that's the goal, but in the moment it was just me, Tyler and the producer working on music that we just really enjoyed, liked to listen to, and would love to sit down and play in front of people. To imagine it in front of a very large group of people is a weird thing (*laughs*), and you never know if something that you're creating will resonate in any way. It could be something that people just hate, or just don't really care about! But I think sitting in the studio, and even writing this thing on the road before that, helped to turn it into what it is now. It's really cool to remember, and hopefully we can do it again."

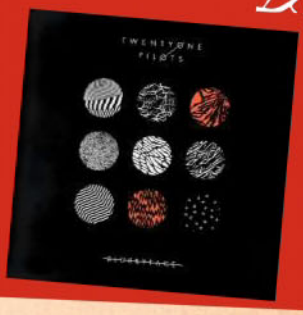
IS THAT THE KEY TO BLURRYFACE'S SUCCESS – THAT YOU BOTH LITERALLY SAT DOWN AND MADE MUSIC THAT YOU WANTED TO HEAR?

"That's a factor. There can be a lot of pressure, and there's this insecurity when people are listening to something that *you* created. It's vulnerable, honestly, but I think it's important to lean into some of those insecurities and vulnerabilities and just be honest about it. It was difficult, but I think that's what people want to hear. We both had a look at people in our lives – like our younger brothers – who have a grasp on what's going on, and if we can show them a song that they're pumped about, then typically we feel pretty good about it, too!"

LIFE AFTER BLURRYFACE

IT MIGHT HAVE HIT ONE MILLION SALES, BUT TYLER AND JOSH AREN'T THINKING ABOUT ITS FOLLOW-UP – QUITE YET, ANYWAY…

"A lot of the writing that we do kind of naturally happens on the road, because we've been on the road pretty much for four years straight – which is exactly what we wanted! And, even now, we still think in terms of the live show and what can be improved and made as impactful as possible. I think we try and do that for people returning to a show, but also for ourselves – and we always try to out-do ourselves when it comes to that kind of thing. As far as the next release is concerned, that's something that's to be decided right now, just because there's so many shows. We're essentially still going pretty strong into mid-2017 touring-wise, so at some point we're really going to have to dive in and start to think about what this next album is going to be, and I'm really excited to do that!"



IS IT NOW A CASE OF GOING, 'OKAY, LET'S AIM FOR TWO MILLION ALBUM SALES!' OR IS THAT NOT REALLY A CONSIDERATION?

"Well, before Tyler and I even started playing music together, the first time we ever really hung out, we talked about music and both of our individual dreams, visions and goals, musically. We definitely surprised each other with how much those things aligned. It's a vulnerable thing when you've got these two guys sitting in a room talking, when they literally have nothing to show for themselves – just a couple of ideas. And so, to even have these conversations initially was a weird thing for us. But the idea of not allowing yourself to have a ceiling is an important thing, and I encourage other people to do that. To have natural ceilings on whatever it is that you're pursuing is only limiting you. So one thing we talked about was surpassing the local scene, and continuing to move forward. I think selling a bunch of albums is a little bit more of a foreign concept than just playing larger shows – selling albums wasn't really on our radar, and it wasn't something we felt like we could do on our own. What we *did* feel like we could do on our own, though, was put together an entertaining live show that people would enjoy and want to come back to, and want to bring their friends to. So that was our intention from the beginning. The selling of an album [was something that would] hopefully naturally follow that."

DOES THIS EVER FEEL TOO MUCH? DO YOU HAVE MOMENTS WHERE YOU'D RATHER GO BACK TO PLAYING A TINY CLUB WITH PEOPLE NOT KNOWING YOU?

"There are certain times where that feeling absolutely happens, and I think it stems from wanting to have control over people's perceptions or thoughts, or wanting to be able to explain certain actions. Sometimes it gets to a point where you can't control some things, and a lot of it's because it is at this level now. There are things that I miss about playing a show in a small venue that's crowded with very sweaty, passionate people, and being able to pack our gear up afterwards and hang out with them – with *all* of them – and get people's thoughts and feedback, and just have conversations about life. It's a lot more difficult to do that now, so, yeah, there are definitely aspects about those older days that I'm always going to miss. But, at the same time, we set out to be able to play in front of as many people as possible – and that has nothing to do with a desire for fame or attention, but we really believed in this music since the very

TØP: never ones to make it too hard for their mates to find them in a festival crowd

"THERE ARE TIMES THAT
THIS CAN FEEL OVERWHELMING,
LIKE THERE'S A LOT OF EYES ON US THAT WANT SOMETHING..."

JOSH DUN

Coming soon: twenty one pilots' all-in-one pyjamas

beginning and just want as many people as possible to hear it."

HAVE THERE BEEN ANY LOW POINTS IN TRYING TO REACH THAT GOAL?

"It's really rare, and I think my personality is very optimistic and positive in nature, but there are times where it can feel a little overwhelming. Sometimes it feels like there's a lot of expectations, or a lot of anticipation, or a lot of eyes on us that want something. I've realised that it's impossible to please everybody, but we try our best. Again, the goal remains to be able to share this with as many people as possible, and that's what we're going to continue to try and do. We're going to try to please everybody, but there's going to be some people who aren't happy with certain things… but that's just part of it."

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME TO PRE-BLURRYFACE JOSH, DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE? WOULD IT JUST BE, 'YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY, AS MUCH AS YOU WILL TRY'?

"That's one, for sure. I'm a people-pleaser by nature, so I'm *always* going to want to try to make everybody happy, but I realise that there are things that people just aren't going to connect with, or aren't going to necessarily enjoy. But then I turn to the people who have made us a huge part of their life and I've realised how thankful I am for those people. I love having them a part of this. And, honestly, it's a wonder that people invest in us and spend time with us and this music – whether it's at a show, or alone in their room in the dark. This whole thing would be pointless if Tyler and I went onstage alone. The people who listen to the music are the most important part of this entire thing."

Who Josh is referring to, of course, is the Skeletøn Clique – twenty one pilots' extraordinarily dedicated fanbase, who will be out in their droves to watch the band's coronation at Reading & Leeds. From the hardcore constituent dressed up in skeleton onesies and black body-paint way upfront, to the more casual attendee wondering what all the hype is about out back, there's absolutely no doubt that the BBC Radio 1 Stage will be jam-packed for a glimpse at Josh and Tyler in their prime surroundings this weekend. And though the duo's track record from the 200-capacity Camden Barfly way up to two nights at London's O2 Academy Brixton has seen them selling tickets faster than you can say 'Blurryface', Josh is typically humble about their upcoming festival appearance…

YOU'RE RETURNING TO READING & LEEDS THIS WEEKEND – WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO YOU?

"Well, honestly, when Tyler and I would sit and brainstorm ideas of what everything we wanted to do would look like, we would sit down and watch a bunch of festivals on TV, and Reading & Leeds were two festivals that we really looked up to and admired a lot. We've always – *always* – looked at the UK as a place where people really respect music and like music a lot, and, to be honest, the first time we ever came over here we were super-intimidated (*laughs*). We were worried that our music wouldn't translate, or go down well with people going to the festival or coming to our show, and that it wouldn't be entertaining enough, or that they just didn't like it. We were surprised with the amount of people who *do* resonate with our music in the UK."

IS THAT STILL A WORRY FOR YOU NOW?

"I think that will always be a thing; every night we play, even if it's a sold-out show, I still always feel like nobody's going to show up. I feel like we're going to come back to the UK and everybody's going to suddenly not like our music (*laughs*). But I think that's a feeling that I almost enjoy, in a way; I think it forces me to be aware and alert, and it allows us to try to continue to put on the best show that we can, always. Reading & Leeds still remain two of the festivals that we look up to the most and are really honoured to play."

WITH TWO NIGHTS AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN ON YOUR EMØTIØNAL RØADSHØW SCHEDULE, AND THE FACT THAT YOU USED TO JOKE WITH TYLER'S ROOMMATES ABOUT PLAYING THAT VENUE WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED OUT, HOW DO THESE BAND-DEFINING MOMENTS FEEL?

"It's funny, because when we first started out, all the shows we did were pretty local – we'd travel at most up to four hours on a weekend to play, and we tried to do three or four a weekend, if we could. At a lot of the very local ones in Columbus, Ohio, we'd show up at Tyler's house before the show, and there were a bunch of dudes living there, and a lot of times we'd pack up the trailer and we'd be leaving the house like, 'Hey, you want to come to the show today?' and they're like, 'Well, what are you doing, playing MSG?!' We'd joke about it every single time, and I was always like, 'One day!'"

DO YOU APPROACH THESE MORE ICONIC GIGS ANY DIFFERENTLY, KNOWING THAT YOU'RE STANDING ON THE SAME STAGE THAT A LOT OF LEGENDARY ACTS HAVE ALSO PLAYED ON?

"It's definitely an honour to be able to play on such legendary stages where there's so much history, and you know, one that a lot of people really look up to and respect for that reason alone. For us, I think it's a case of, 'How can we stand out from some of those bands?' Or, 'How can we make this a little bit different or interesting in our own way?' We're honoured, but we're also up for the challenge…"

And on that note, Josh heads off to prepare for *tonight's* challenge with Tyler: ensuring that the people in attendance at Orange Beach's sold-out Wharf Ampitheater leave with the compulsive urge to return to see twenty one pilots when they next roll into town.

The night is subjected to bad weather, but it doesn't prevent Josh from back-flipping off of Tyler's piano during Holding On To You, busting out the trumpet for We Don't Believe What's On TV, and playing a wild drum solo on top of the crowd in Ride. All the while, his bandmate leaps at daring heights across the stage and commands a jump-the-fuck-up to Lane Boy that even Slipknot would envy, before the two join forces under a shower of confetti during set-closer Trees. Clearly, nothing is more vital to twenty one pilots than giving their fans the greatest show on Earth, and it's a mind-set that will carry the duo through this weekend, and far, far, *far* beyond. We might not be ready for what's about to hit Reading & Leeds – and *no* amount of preparation will help this time…

READING
BBC RADIO 1 STAGE, FRIDAY, 8:50PM – 9:40PM
LEEDS
BBC RADIO 1 STAGE, SATURDAY, 8PM – 8:50PM

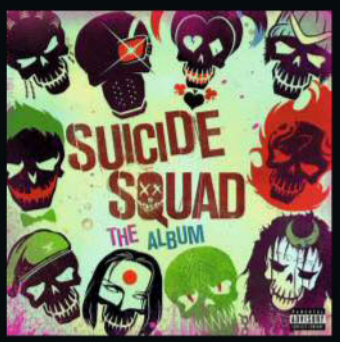
Kerrang!'s essential guide to ***Reading & Leeds*** *– with 20 all-star interviews – starts over the page!*

ALL THEIR FRIENDS ARE HEATHENS

JOSH TAKES US INSIDE TØP'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUICIDE SQUAD SOUNDTRACK

IN BETWEEN YOUR EXTENSIVE TOURING SCHEDULE, YOU MANAGED TO FIND TIME TO WRITE A SINGLE FOR THE SUICIDE SQUAD SOUNDTRACK. HOW DID HEATHENS COME ABOUT?

"The director [David Ayer] reached out to us and wanted to see if there was any way we could write something for the film. Tyler had a meeting with him and then showed me an idea that he came up with, literally two days after that. I think we landed on a song that, in my opinion, really fits the vibe of the movie. We've never done any sort of soundtrack piece or anything like that before, and a lot of times you hear people referencing the movie or certain characters, and that was something that we didn't want to do. But it's something that encompassed the idea of that movie as a whole. We had so many questions logistically, and if it didn't work out for whatever reason then we would just use the song for our next album, because I think at the core of it, it's still very much a twenty one pilots song. But we all ended up coming to an agreement that everyone was really happy with. We actually saw the movie last night and it was really cool to see it and have our song come on!"



WAS THAT ANOTHER MOMENT WHERE IT FELT LIKE YOU'D 'MADE IT'?

"It's definitely not a feeling I anticipated having when Tyler and I started playing music together! It was a new one, for sure. Again, I think that in the beginning, we were just so focused on the live show, I don't think we ever would have sat down in the living room and looked at each other and said, 'Hey we're going to be in a movie and go see it in a movie theatre and hear our song!' I don't think that was anything that we ever imagined. That's one of the exciting things about this whole thing."

DO YOU HAVE ANY MORE ASPIRATIONS LIKE THAT?

"There's still a lot of stuff that we want to do and pursue and accomplish, but at the same time, if this all ended today, I'd be completely satisfied and grateful for every experience that we've had."

PHOTOS: SMALLZ & RASKIND / CONTOUR BY GETTY IMAGES, ADAM ELMAKIAS

TENT ✓ MERCH MONEY ✓
CEREAL BARS ✓

THE ULTIMATE READING & LEEDS PREVIEW!

AUGUST MEANS ONLY ONE THING IN ROCK: **READING & LEEDS** IS HERE TO RULE SUPREME OVER SUMMER! **TWENTY ONE PILOTS** WILL BE THERE, AS PART OF A LINE-UP BOASTING **BIFFY CLYRO**, **FALL OUT BOY** AND MORE MUST-SEE SETS THAN YOUR EARS CAN COPE WITH. THE ONLY THING YOU'LL BE NEEDING TO PACK, THEN, IS K!'S GUIDE TO THE NOT-TO-BE-MISSED PERFORMANCES OF THE WEEKEND…

WORDS: HANNAH EWENS, JAMES HICKIE, SAM LAW, DAN SLESSOR, PAUL TRAVERS, JENNYFER J. WALKER
PHOTOS: PAUL HARRIES, GETTY, ANDREW TIMMS, PA, DAVE MUSSON

BIFFY CLYRO

RETURNING TO THE SCENE OF THEIR CROWNING GLORY, CAN BIFFY REPEAT 2013'S MASTERCLASS?

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER FROM WHEN YOU HEADLINED READING & LEEDS THREE YEARS AGO?

SIMON NEIL (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "It was kind of blink-and-you'll-miss-it for us last time. It felt like a bit of a dream situation in terms of it not feeling real. I remember at the very end of the Reading show it piling on me all at once like bricks, and it suddenly occurred to me what we'd just done. It was overwhelming. You get a few of those moments where you feel like you're *awake* enough to experience it, and I just caught that wee glimpse at the end. And since then we've just been dying to play again. If we can get even close to achieving what we did last time, then it'll be an amazing weekend."

AND HOW MANY NEW SONGS FROM ELLIPSIS CAN WE EXPECT?

"We'll probably play about half a dozen. It's tough at festivals, because if we were playing for a couple of hours, we'd probably put the whole album in, whether people want us to or not (*laughs*). But we'll play a bunch of new ones – they're the songs that we're loving playing so much at the moment, and they're sitting really well in the set. They make certain songs that weren't shining before shine. And we'll try and put in a couple of early songs if we can as well, and hopefully have the night of our lives."

IF YOU HAD TO GET A TATTOO TO COMMEMORATE PLAYING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

"I've got all of [co-headliners] Fall Out Boy's faces tattooed across my lower back because they're all handsome fellas (*laughs*). I'd probably get a tally of how many times we've played it, and I think this is our 10th time, so I'd get a classic prison tally. Or tears! That's what I'd get tattooed: tears coming down my face (*laughs*)."

DO YOU REMEMBER THE VERY FIRST TIME YOU PLAYED READING & LEEDS?

"Yeah, I think we were on at, like, midday. I remember us leaving Scotland at 1am and then we drove through the night and drank ourselves stupid. I was sick, Ben [Johnston, drums] was sick from nerves, and James [Johnston, bass] just went a wander, so we were not well prepared! It was a huge tent, and we played to about 200 people, but there was just something glorious about being a part of the festival. I can't remember much about the gig. I remember more about hanging around later on and trying to catch as many bands as I possibly could."

WHAT'S THE PLAN FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR?

"We're doing some TV shows in Europe in September, then we start our European tour in October, and we'll *finally* be able to talk about our UK tour very soon. We've got an unbelievable support band, too. So just gigs, gigs, gigs, taking our songs round the world and doing what we do best, I guess – which is sitting in a bus and then playing shows! That's what we were born to do. Any personal goals? All my goals are musical. I'm finishing my ZZC album, I want to complete the next Marmaduke Duke record, the final one of that trilogy, and I want to make a really abrasive, avant-garde record that just sounds like I've been fucking around, almost like a soundscape record."

READING
MAIN STAGE, SUNDAY, 10PM – 11:30PM
LEEDS
MAIN STAGE, FRIDAY, 9:30PM – 11PM

"HEADLINING IN 2013 FELT LIKE A DREAM – IT DIDN'T FEEL REAL..."
SIMON NEIL

"IT'S ABOUT KNOWING WHERE TO STAND WHERE PYRO ISN'T GOING TO KILL ME!"

WINSTON McCALL

READING
MAIN STAGE, SATURDAY, 3PM – 3:40PM
LEEDS
MAIN STAGE, SUNDAY, 2:35PM – 3:10PM

PARKWAY DRIVE

MAKE SURE YOU DON'T STAND TOO NEAR THE MAIN STAGE WITH AN OPEN FLAME THIS WEEKEND – SOMETHING MIGHT EXPLODE…

YOU'VE PLAYED DOWNLOAD THREE TIMES BUT YOU'RE ACTUALLY READING & LEEDS VIRGINS – WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?

WINSTON McCALL (*VOCALS*) "I don't know (*laughs*)! We have *no* idea what to expect. We're the heaviest band on our day, which has been the same at a lot of the festivals we've been playing, which we really like. We feel like we've got a responsibility to hold it down for the heavies!"

WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT?

"We plan on making people move! Whether they know us or not, the aim of our set is to make people sing and move and have fun, and we'll see if we can break our crowd-surfing record, which was around 2,000 people in one set. We did that at a club show, so we're expecting it should go even better!"

WILL YOU BE BRINGING YOUR PYRO TO READING & LEEDS, GIVEN YOU HAVE AFTERNOON SLOTS?

"Flames work at any time of the day, man (*laughs*)!"

WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING ONSTAGE WHEN THAT GOES OFF?

"It's pretty fun! We'd never had the chance to use it up until last year, so now we're making up for 10 years without being able to burn things! We've gotten used to the fire, but now we have other stuff that makes really loud noises, and there are so many cues that we forget! There's one I completely forgot about and the other day it blew up right next to my head, which maybe wasn't the best move! It's just about knowing where to stand where something isn't going to kill me!"

YOU'VE MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY THAT YOU'RE ALREADY WRITING FOR THE NEXT PARKWAY DRIVE RECORD – HOW DEEP INTO THE PROCESS ARE YOU AT THIS POINT?

"Not very deep yet, but that being said we've got a *heap* of stuff done. We've blocked off a huge amount of time to write it at the start of next year, and we knew because the last one took us so long we'd have to take a long time to do the next one, and put in a fuck-load of effort, but we had literally two weeks at home and *all* this stuff came out. We have so much more than we ever anticipated having at this point in time. We have big goals for the next record when it comes to the sound. The last record [Ire] was in a lot of ways unknown waters for us, but now we really know what we can do when we put our minds to it."

NOTHING MORE

YOU CAN NEVER BE TOO PREPARED FOR READING & LEEDS – THANK US LATER, JONNY…

READING
THE PIT, FRIDAY, 5:30PM – 6:10PM
LEEDS
THE PIT, SATURDAY, 5:15PM – 5:55PM

YOUR INSTAGRAM IS PACKED WITH PICTURES OF YOU WORKING ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO 2013'S SELF-TITLED ALBUM – HOW'S IT GOING?

JONNY HAWKINS (*VOCALS/PERCUSSION*): "It's going good, we're pretty deep into it right now and it's due to see the light of day some time in 2017. There are 14 songs we're working on."

HOW DIFFERENT A PLACE ARE YOU IN COMPARED TO WHEN YOU LAST WENT IN TO TRACK AN ALBUM?

"In a lot of ways, it's a whole new world for us. With any skill or trade you can increasingly get better and more proficient, but there are these benchmarks you cross where it becomes a very different process. I think the last record was much more of an experimental, 'We-don't-know-how-it's-going-to-come-out-but-we're-going-to-give-it-our-all', deal. So, we kind of paved the way to be working in the way we are *now*, and we feel like we have much more freedom in building on that foundation. We still have days where we're banging our heads against the wall after spending 10 hours working on what turns out to be three lyrics, though!"

YOU GET A NICE BREAK FOR READING & LEEDS, THOUGH. IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME?

"Yeah! We've heard really good things about Reading & Leeds, and there are a lot of bands we love and respect who have played there, so we're definitely stoked for it."

THE READING CROWD IN PARTICULAR IS INFAMOUS FOR LETTING BANDS THEY DON'T LIKE KNOW ABOUT IT BY, UM, THROWING THINGS AT THEM. HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO DODGE ANYTHING IN THE PAST?

"Well, first of all, that's good to know – I'll have to be aware of things flying at my head (*laughs*)! I can't actually think of anything that flew out of the crowd, but I've had things thrown at me by other bands. We actually got pranked by We Are Scientists on the last night of a tour we did with them, and they shot Silly String and threw things at us throughout the whole show. But, they also replaced my drum sticks [when I was drumming in the band] with dildos, so that was an interesting surprise! If that wasn't enough, they also put pictures of puppies and kittens on my drums, so every time I was hitting them it was very sad (*laughs*)!"

GREYWIND

IF YOU SEE SOMEONE INVADING THE STAGE WITH A TAMBOURINE DURING FALL OUT BOY'S SET, JUST GO WITH IT…

YOUR DEBUT ALBUM AFTERTHOUGHTS WILL BE SEEING THE LIGHT OF DAY IN OCTOBER – ARE YOU CHOMPING AT THE BIT TO GET IT OUT?

STEPH O'SULLIVAN (*VOCALS*): "Yeah, it's been such a long wait! We put out the song Afterthoughts back in 2014, then went away and spent a year writing before putting out Forest Ablaze, and it will be *so* good to have 10 actual songs out for people to hear. I'm so excited!"

WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016?

"Putting out Forest Ablaze was amazing, and making the video for it, too. We did a tour with Moose Blood, and that was an incredible experience, because it was really the first shows we've ever played, and we were playing them on a sold-out tour! We also did The Great Escape, and we did an acoustic set at Slam Dunk, and that was really cool doing it with the songs stripped back. It went down really well, too. Everyone who knows us only really knows two or three songs, so when playing new songs, we didn't know if people would be into them. Seeing them go over well with people was great."

IS MAKING YOUR READING & LEEDS BOW A PRETTY BIG DEAL TO YOU?

"Yeah, we were there last year as fans, and I remember watching Bring Me The Horizon and thinking, 'Oh my God, I want to do that!' This is one of my biggest dreams come true; playing those festivals has always been on my bucket list, and I honestly did not think we would do it this soon – and it'll be something like our 15th show that we've ever played, which is ridiculous! We'll wing it and see what happens (*laughs*)! We like to be really dramatic and kind of mysterious. We like to try to shock people!"

IF YOU COULD SING ON ANY SONG BY ANY OF THE BANDS PLAYING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

"It would *have* to be Fall Out Boy – they're one of the reasons I'm in a band myself and are one of my favourite bands ever. But I don't know what song, though! Actually, it could be *any* song, I wouldn't care – I'll just play tambourine in the background if they want (*laughs*)! I think that maybe they're missing a bit of tambourine!"

READING
LOCK UP STAGE, SUNDAY, 1:55PM – 2:25PM
LEEDS
LOCK UP STAGE, FRIDAY, 1:40PM – 2:10PM

LOWER THAN ATLANTIS

FUTURE HEADLINERS? FRONTMAN MIKE DUCE IS SAYING NOTHING. EXCEPT WHEN HE IS…

HOW HAVE YOU SPENT THIS LAST MONTH PREPARING FOR READING & LEEDS?

MIKE DUCE (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "We haven't really, at all, because we're seeing where our album's at and trying to pull it together and pick tracks. We pretty much know what we're playing, and there's most probably gonna be a new song in there – that's a Kerrang! exclusive! We've been playing together for eight years, so we don't need too much practice. We'll have to run through the new song a few times. I don't really panic anymore – we kinda know what we're doing. It's only taken eight years but we know what we're doing now (*laughs*)."

TELL US ABOUT THIS NEW SONG, THEN…

"No! (*Laughs*) Um, what can I tell you? All I can tell you, really, is that if you wanna hear anything about the new song, then you need to come and watch us play at Reading & Leeds!"

HOW IS THE ALBUM COMING ALONG?

"We're about seven songs in. We're thinking of having 10 tracks on it. To have an album that has less than 12 tracks on it, I think they've gotta be *stonking* belters, haven't they? The seven that we've got now are those kind of songs, so if we get another three like that, I think we're gonna go for quality over quantity. But if we can't, we'll just bang two averagely shit ones on the end of it (*laughs*)."

YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING STRANGER THINGS – HAS THAT INSPIRED YOU TO TRY ANYTHING DIFFERENT ON THE ALBUM?

"The soundtrack is amazing on that, isn't it? I don't know, maybe we could potentially experiment with something Stranger Things-esque inspired. Maybe on track 11."

WHAT DOES PLAYING R&L MEAN FOR YOU AT THIS STAGE OF YOUR CAREER?

"It's an honour to get to play the festival anyway, but to play the Main Stage… It's gonna be great! We've been given an opportunity to prove we're one of the bands that can play that late on a main stage, and obviously we're gonna nail it, 'cause we're legends."

DO YOU THINK YOU COULD ONE DAY HEADLINE IT?

"That's not for me to say… but yes (*laughs*). I could die happy then!"

READING
MAIN STAGE, FRIDAY, 3:15PM – 3:55PM
LEEDS
MAIN STAGE, SATURDAY, 2:50PM – 3:25PM

READING
MAIN STAGE, SUNDAY, 12PM – 12:30PM
LEEDS
MAIN STAGE, FRIDAY, 12PM – 12:30PM

STATE CHAMPS

THEY'RE OPENING UP THE *WHOLE* OF LEEDS. NO PRESSURE…

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE OPENING THE MAIN STAGE AT READING & LEEDS?

DEREK DiSCANIO (*VOCALS*): "It's an amazing feeling. We've never even had the chance to attend, but we've heard so many great things – both from UK friends and ones from the U.S. who've travelled over. So don't expect us to just take it for granted. We're really going to share the moment between us, our friends and even the family we'll have over there."

HOW IS IT TO BE SHARING A STAGE WITH WORLD-BEATERS LIKE FALL OUT BOY?

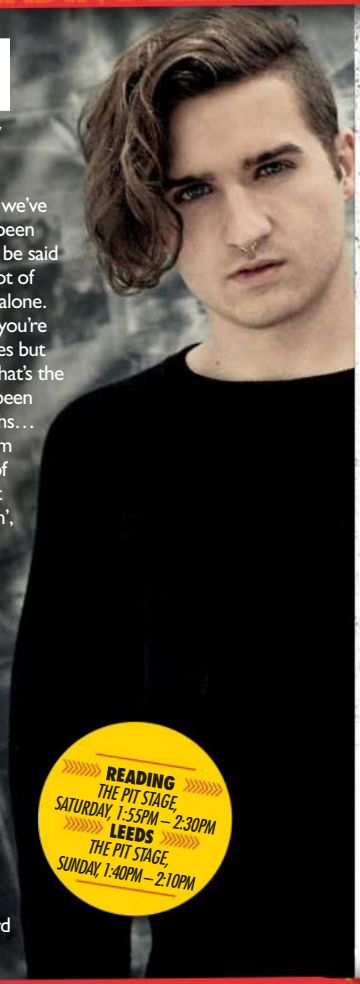
"It's crazy! Fall Out Boy were my favourite band, and now we're on the same bill, on the *same* stage as them! We'll stay all day and hopefully hang out. At the very least we'll get to watch their show. It's a cool thing to open up the stage and have them close it. It's a bucket list check-off for us. So cool!"

WHO ELSE WILL YOU BE CHECKING OUT?

"We've spent this whole summer with Sleeping With Sirens, and they've become great friends of ours. Good Charlotte are on our day, as well, and they're real pioneers in our scene! I'm also a big pop music guy, and if I can get into some of the other days I'll check out people like Jack Ü. Red Hot Chili Peppers, will be amazing. I also like G-Eazy from California, who'll be cool. There are so many kinds of different artists, which is what makes it so special."

GHOST TOWN

CAN ANYONE GIVE THE 'TECHNICALLY HOMELESS' KEVIN GHOST A SPACE IN THEIR TENT? PLEASE?



YOU JUST DID A WHOLE SUMMER ON WARPED TOUR – HAS THAT PUT YOU IN GOOD STEAD TO COME OVER AND PLAY READING & LEEDS?

KEVIN GHOST (*VOCALS*): "Oh, definitely! I know we're gonna adjust our set a little bit, but we're definitely very tight and very locked in with each other. And it's gotten to that point where you play so many shows, it's like, 'I wanna do something *interesting*! What can I do? How can I step it up?' Usually I'll start from the basics like, 'Can I climb something really crazy?' Or if the crowd's really rabid, I'll run and jump into the pit!"

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PLAYING R&L AT THIS STAGE IN YOUR CAREER?

"If it was any other year previous, we might not have been ready, but I feel like we could not be *more* ready at this point. Having put out Evolution and being so confident in that record, and enjoying it so much, I feel like we're finally gonna have the means to tackle something like R&L! We're gonna put on a killer show – we don't like to lull at all in our set, there's gonna be a lot of energy the whole time, so come ready to rock out. We're gonna have a good time!"

HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING ON ANY NEW MUSIC?

"We always have a library of songs in our voice notes on our phones, or that we've demoed out on the laptop. What's been inspiring me? I think there's a lot to be said about getting older, and learning a lot of life lessons, and the feeling of being alone. It's kind of depressing, right? When you're around nine or 10 people at all times but you still feel really lonely, I feel like that's the worst kinda loneliness. And having been technically homeless for nine months… I have my bunk on the bus, which I'm super-grateful for, but there's a lot of things that are bringing up… I don't know if you wanna call it 'inspiration', but the means to write a song that might connect with someone else."

HOW HAS BEING TECHNICALLY HOMELESS AFFECTED YOU?

"Friends and family let me sleep on their couches, but my parents get overbearing when I come home. It's like, 'Guys, chill! I know I'm here, but I'm an *adult* now.' And they're like, 'You're *homeless*! *You need to eat*!' But I'm very grateful to have some awesome people in my life that are helping me. What it all comes down to is making any sacrifice possible to ensure that the band moves forward – even though it is hard."

READING
THE PIT STAGE, SATURDAY, 1:55PM – 2:30PM
LEEDS
THE PIT STAGE, SUNDAY, 1:40PM – 2:10PM

MAST

IF THE SIGHT OF ATLANTA'S FINEST IS ACCOMPANIED BY A WARM FEELING ON YOUR LEG, YOU MIGHT WANT TO MOVE…

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT PLAYING DIVERSE FESTIVAL BILLS, LIKE THE ONE AT READING & LEEDS?

BRANN DAILOR (*DRUMS/VOCALS*): "I like the opportunity to see some different kinds of bands! Though I'll probably end up sequestered backstage and only able to pop my head out to check the bands out on our stage. It's usually tough to get all the way across the site to check out other stages, but we're on last on The Pit, so maybe I'll get a chance. Also, I like rocking the tent. You can really pack it out and make it really sweaty so that it smells terrible!"

IN TERMS OF MAINSTREAM R&L BANDS, WHO ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO?

"I don't think I'm a fan of any (*laughs*)! I mean, what sort of bands are popular nowadays? Nickelback?! Creed?!"

UM, WELL, THERE ARE FIVE MAIN STAGE HEADLINERS AT READING & LEEDS – BIFFY CLYRO, FALL OUT BOY, RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS, FOALS AND DISCLOSURE…

"I know the Chili Peppers! They're good. I like Chad Smith – he's a great drummer. My main memory of the Chili Peppers is in that one video [Give It Away] when they're filming in beneath this guy's bollocks. It was cool."

BRIAN FALLON & THE CROWES

READING & LEEDS IS A SPECIAL PLACE FOR BRIAN. AND HE'S READY TO ENJOY IT ALL OVER AGAIN...

READING & LEEDS WAS THE SITE OF THE GASLIGHT ANTHEM'S FIRST AND LAST UK SHOWS. DOES IT HOLD A SPECIAL PLACE IN YOUR HEART?

BRIAN FALLON (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "I kind of think of it as being a bookend. I remember Leeds being the first real show we'd played in England at all… I remember being at The Lock Up tent and there were a *lot* of kids there. I thought it was going to be an empty tent with no-one there, which was kind of like every other show we'd played at the time. And then playing the last show on the main stage, I remember feeling, 'Well, if you're gonna play yourself out then this is definitely the way to do it!' They're special festivals. They gave us a chance when no-one else did."

AND NOW, HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE PLAYING UNDER YOUR OWN NAME?

"It's different. The pressure's different; it's a little bit lighter. Whenever someone strikes out on their own, people make the mistake of thinking that they're going to be as big as the band that they came from. The good thing for me is that I took some advice from other people who have done this, and I've realised that I'm starting over again. So it feels almost like it did when we played the first Reading. I'm enjoying maybe taking three steps back and savouring the things that I didn't get to enjoy the first time because there was so much pressure and hustle."

IS IT NICE TO FEEL LIKE AN UNDERDOG ONCE AGAIN?

"Yeah, it is. In my head I've always liked the idea of fighting for something. I've always enjoyed the struggle, although I don't know why. It gives me a purpose."

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR BRIAN FALLON?

"I'm just starting to work on some new stuff, some new songs, so we'll see what comes of that. But I'm gonna take my time with that. At the moment, I'm just having fun."

ARE YOU GONNA GET THE OLD BAND BACK TOGETHER?

"It depends if we feel we have a good record in us, and if we have something to say. If we do, then we will; if we don't, then we won't."

READING
FESTIVAL REPUBLIC STAGE, SATURDAY, 10:30PM – 11:30PM
LEEDS
FESTIVAL REPUBLIC STAGE, SUNDAY, 10:10PM – 11PM

WATER

ROCK'S HOTTEST NEW BAND PREPARE FOR THEIR DEBUT

SO, AWSTEN, YOUR READING & LEEDS DEBUT AWAITS…

AWSTEN KNIGHT (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "Yep! It's the first time I've been at Reading & Leeds *at all*. When we did the Slam Dunk shows and our headline show in London, those were the first time we'd ever left the U.S. in general. That was a very strange, big deal. I could be wrong about this but I heard the UK as a whole is smaller than Texas, the state I live in."

YEAH, WE'RE PRETTY TINY… ARE YOU EXCITED TO BE COMING BACK, THEN?

"Reading & Leeds has been on my personal bucket list forever, even before everything happened with the band. So many amazing bands have played there. We've watched them all on YouTube. My Chemical Romance playing

ODON

YOU WERE FORCED TO CANCEL THESE FESTIVALS LAST YEAR – DOES THAT CHANGE YOUR APPROACH COMING BACK AT ALL?

"No, it won't. We're just gonna do our show. We had to cancel last summer because of family illness – Troy [Sanders, bass/vocals] and his wife were going through some heavy stuff and I expect everyone wanting to see us understood we couldn't be there. We're just going to give them all we've got. We never approach a show holding anything back. I'm physically exhausted every time I leave the stage – which is awesome!"

FINALLY, WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE EVER FESTIVAL MEMORY?

"It's from the first time we ever played with Iron Maiden. I decided I was going to get in the pit. They were going into The Trooper and everyone was crushed right up to the stage. Then I felt this warm liquid hitting the back of my leg. The guy behind me was peeing on me!"

READING
THE PIT STAGE, SATURDAY, 10:30PM – 11:30PM
LEEDS
THE PIT STAGE, SUNDAY, 10PM – 11PM

PARKS

there, Fall Out Boy, Panic! At The Disco, All Time Low, Green Day…"

WHO ARE YOU MOST STOKED ABOUT SEEING?

"I've always wanted to say hi to Fall Out Boy. I'm just gonna hug the shit out of Pete Wentz and make that a priority. When we're not playing or doing press or whatever, I'm gonna be out looking for him. I also wanna see A$AP Rocky, twenty one pilots and Red Hot Chili Peppers. All those would be tight."

ANYTHING ELSE YOU'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO WHILE YOU'RE HERE?

"Out in England, we're a little bit more rare which is cool. And with our American accents, we're more special in a dorky way. I feel like in England people are more appreciative of music. We did a headlining show out there which we'd never done out of our state and it did really, really well. Like, 'Holy shit, people out here like music!' We went to a robot sex shop when we came over last time. That was one of our explorations. I rode on a train, we went to the Queen's house, we saw that big clock [*Er, Big Ben? – K! London Ed*]. I'm sure there's crazy stuff I wanna do out here this time…"

READING
LOCK UP STAGE, SUNDAY, 2:45PM – 3:20PM
LEEDS
LOCK UP STAGE, SATURDAY, 2:30PM – 3:05PM

TONIGHT ALIVE

COMING TO A FIELD – AND MAYBE EVEN A CAMPSITE – NEAR YOU SOON: IT'S JENNA AND CO!

HAVING HAD SUCH A GREAT TIME ON WARPED TOUR, ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO COMING BACK TO READING & LEEDS?

JENNA McDOUGALL (*VOCALS*): "Absolutely! I had such a good time when we played there in 2014, and I can't wait to come back bigger and better. I love the feeling of those festivals, it's great getting out from backstage and walking around and experiencing it and watching bands – and there's *so* much good music! It'll be a perfect end to our great summer."

WHAT KIND OF SET SHOULD WE EXPECT?

"We come to the UK quite often and everyone's been super-receptive to our most recent record [Limitless], and we'd love to showcase a good chunk of those songs. Limitless has such a feeling of natural expression about it, but at the same time some of it really does feel like it was designed to be played from festival stages and wide open spaces, especially with fans like the ones we have in the UK. They're so present, and they wholeheartedly commit themselves to the show, and I think the songs we'll play will be the perfect match to what they're giving us."

FALL OUT BOY AND BIFFY CLYRO CO-HEADLINE YOUR DAY – WILL YOU BE TRYING TO CATCH THEIR SETS?

"Yeah, 100 per cent! I think we're actually going to stay at Reading for the day in-between so we can watch Red Hot Chili Peppers and the bands playing that day, too. We're going to make a proper weekend of it – to be honest, I almost want to camp! I'd love to really be able to get the full vibe."

READING
BBC RADIO 1 STAGE, SUNDAY, 3:20PM – 3:50PM
LEEDS
BBC RADIO 1 STAGE, FRIDAY, 3:20PM – 3:50PM

YOU'VE ADDED YOUR VOCALS TO A REMIXED VERSION OF PARKWAY DRIVE'S A DEATHLESS SONG, WHICH WAS INCLUDED ON THE REISSUE OF THEIR IRE ALBUM. IS THAT YOUR FIRST TIME SINGING ON A METAL SONG?

"It's not the first time, actually, but it's been a long time, and I really, really enjoyed doing it! I feel like I got to use my voice in a different way, using tones and techniques I wouldn't usually experiment with when making Tonight Alive's music. That was super-enjoyable, and they're great to work with."

HAVING USED THOSE TECHNIQUES, DO YOU THINK YOU MIGHT NOW WANT TO BRING SOME OF THAT INTO TONIGHT ALIVE WHEN YOU'RE MAKING NEW MUSIC?

"I'm open to anything. We enjoy our creativity, we don't try to limit it, and when we made Limitless we decided going into it that from that point we could do anything, so it will be pretty interesting writing our next record. It's a while away, but I'm excited to see what we make off the back of that record."

WHAT DOES THE REST OF THE YEAR LOOK LIKE FOR TONIGHT ALIVE?

"We'll be touring. We've got some details to tie up and then we can start making announcements again. After Reading & Leeds we're going to go back to Australia, and then we have a month at home, and that will be out last stop there for the rest of the year. We'll be doing a lot more travelling before Christmas!"

"I LOVE THE FULL FESTIVAL VIBE. I ALMOST WANT TO CAMP!"

JENNA McDOUGALL

THE READING & LEEDS PREVIEW CONTINUES ON PAGE 36

PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

PHOTO: LINDSEY BYRNES

ALL TIME LOW

KERRANG!

PHOTO: LINDSEY BYRNES

PHOTO: TIM TRONCKOE

PHOTO: ANDY FORD

FALL OUT BOY

THEY'RE GOING UP AGAINST BIFFY CLYRO AS CO-HEADLINERS – BUT CAN PETE, PATRICK, JOE AND ANDY GO DOWN IN HISTORY?

READING
MAIN STAGE, SUNDAY, 8PM – 9:15PM
LEEDS
MAIN STAGE, FRIDAY, 7:30PM – 8:45PM

GIVEN THAT IT'S THREE YEARS ON FROM THE END OF YOUR HIATUS AND YOU'RE HEADLINING READING & LEEDS, THAT MUST MAKE YOU FEEL THAT YOU CAN DO ANYTHING… RIGHT?

PETE WENTZ (*BASS/VOCALS*): "It's something I think about a lot. With the UK, specifically with Reading & Leeds, we always felt a sense that everyone was participating and pushing us forward. There were times when we were playing shows in the UK and fans were turning up wearing these crazy masks and bringing signs, and they were part of the process. It really drove us along. I think there's a real ownership in the UK."

YOU'VE RECENTLY WORKED ON A NUMBER OF HIGH-PROFILE COLLABORATIONS – WILL WE SEE ANY AT R&L?

"The post-2010 world is basically that *everything* should be a collaboration. Often people think that Fall Out Boy gets in the studio and says, 'What rapper can we get?' That is definitely *not* how it works! If it calls for a collaboration then we reach out and try to make it happen. We don't just stick a collaboration on it no matter what – and that goes for when we play live, too."

> ***"I WANT PEOPLE TO WALK AWAY AND SAY, 'I WAS THERE!'"***
> **PETE WENTZ**

WHAT IS THE ONE THING THAT YOU'D LIKE TO ACHIEVE WITH THESE UPCOMING CO-HEADLINER SETS?

"I want people to go home feeling the way people felt when they'd go to Lollapalooza in the '90s, or Donington when Iron Maiden played in the '80s! I want people to walk away with an experience where they can say, '*I was there*,' and it was a true *moment*; something that will end up on a listicle of the most memorable shows ever, at some point."

WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL COMPARISON POINTS THAT YOU'D LIKE THE SHOW TO BE THE EQUAL OF?

"When we were growing up and going to shows – like Green Day in the Dookie-era or Metallica in the Black Album-era; seeing one of *our* bands, the bands we really related to, would always make us feel a swell of pride as we felt that we were part of the ranks of those bands."

REPLICATING THAT FEELING FOR YOUR FANS IS IMPORTANT, THEN?

"Oh yeah, absolutely! That idea that this band is *mine*, or this band is *ours*, is such an amazing feeling. Knowing that you might look and dress in a way that other people find strange, and it might result in you getting made fun of at school, but that's outweighed by the fact that a band that you love is having its moment *right now*, and you're a part of that. That's so important for us. I want people to feel as though they were a part of this thing – because they really are a *vital* part!"

IT'S GREAT TO HAVE MODEST EXPECTATIONS!

"I know, right? God, oh God – I've just set myself up, haven't I? It wasn't intentional – I was just getting really into it!"

SLEEPING WITH SIRENS

IF YOU MISS KELLIN QUINN ONSTAGE, YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND HIM IN THE PUB AFTERWARD...

HOW ARE YOU FEELING ABOUT PLAYING READING & LEEDS?

KELLIN QUINN (*VOCALS*): "We're really excited to do Reading & Leeds coming off of Warped Tour. We've played it for two months, so we're excited to do Reading & Leeds this time, because we're really *prepared*. The thing about Warped Tour is you want to play a set that's fast-paced and energetic, so it's definitely gonna be an energetic set for you guys."

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER FROM WHEN YOU PLAYED R&L THE YEAR BEFORE LAST?

"It was a bit intimidating for us because we didn't really know what to expect, but it was a blast. Everything is set up nice at Reading & Leeds. I think that we'll be less nervous this time – we'll definitely be ready to play a great set!"

WHAT DO YOU MOST LOVE ABOUT THE UK?

"I love our fanbase there – we love going out after the set and finding fun little pubs. And I just enjoy staying in hotels, too, so when we go to the UK, we do a lot of hotel-staying and it's really nice to do that and not just be in a bunk the whole time!"

TELL US ABOUT THE ART YOU'VE RECENTLY BEEN POSTING ON YOUR INSTAGRAM...

"Depop is selling it – it's a donation to [Warped founder] Kevin Lyman's foundation, so it's just something nice for me to give back in some way. We haven't really set up our own charity or become part of one yet as a band, so it's a way for me to do something positive."

HOW DID THAT COME ABOUT?

"I'd been doing paintings and posting them on my Instagram and our tour manager Lisa is the second-in-command at Warped Tour, and she just asked if I'd be interested in it, and I said, 'Yep!'"

WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

"I just did a series of skull stuff, because I think that it's fun to paint those. For my next series, I wanna do something more 'physical', so it's not gonna be paintings but physical art. I was thinking of using candle wax, and trying to make something with it!"

READING
MAIN STAGE, SUNDAY, 2:40PM – 3:20PM
LEEDS
MAIN STAGE, FRIDAY, 2:30PM – 3PM

READING
MAIN STAGE, SUNDAY, 3:45PM – 4:45PM
LEEDS
MAIN STAGE, FRIDAY, 3:25PM – 4:20PM

FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH

WILL THE FESTIVAL RIOT-STARTERS BE ON THEIR BEST BEHAVIOUR THIS WEEKEND?

YOU'RE IN THE PROCESS OF RECORDING YOUR SEVENTH ALBUM – HOW'S IT ALL GOING?

ZOLTAN BATHORY (*GUITAR*): "Good, but it's a little bit of a clusterfuck when it comes to scheduling. We're doing these big festivals, we just did a European tour, and we're basically recording when we have days off. This is when being a workaholic really turns on you, because you set yourself big goals and suddenly that hammock on the beach is looking *really* good! We have about 11 or 12 songs so far, and maybe three of them have vocals. It's definitely the next step for Death Punch – I'm not saying it's going to be a revolutionary change, but people will hear the difference. Because it's very difficult to tour and record at the same, it's hard to say when we'll get it out. I think we'll pick it up in January or February, and I'd think it'll be somewhere around May that it comes out."

THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME AT R&L – ARE THEY FESTIVALS YOU'VE LONG WANTED TO TICK OFF?

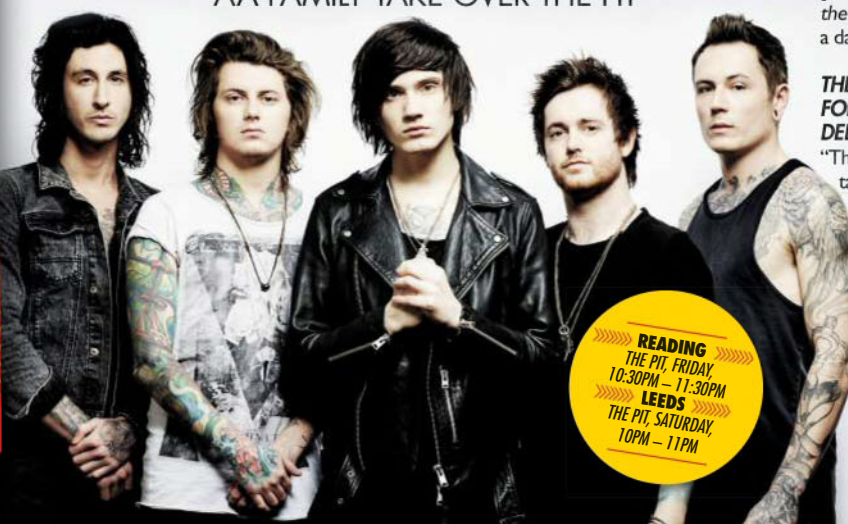
"Yeah, absolutely. Though I've known about it for a long time I wasn't overly aware of what Reading was actually about, because it came across as more of an alternative festival – and then Metallica headlined, and it got my attention! After that I noticed that there was more of a mix going on and there were heavier bands on the bill, but at the same time I know that this is not the stereotypical type of festival that we usually play. It's always fun when you play in front of a different audience – and try to convert them to the dark side!"

WHAT'S THE CRAZIEST REACTION YOU'VE EVER HAD AT A FESTIVAL?

"Well, we did create a couple of riots! In the past we always had this kind of thing of shaking the hands of those who crowd-surfed to the front, and that worked when there's a room with 4,000 people. But if you convert that into a place where you have 80- to 100,000 people, the crowd-surfers become a little army, and all of a sudden you have 5,000 people falling into the photo pit. That happened at Download one year and we had to stop!"

ASKING ALEXANDRIA

IT'S A CASE OF 'NO BEN, NO PROBLEM' AS THE AA FAMILY TAKE OVER THE PIT



READING
THE PIT, FRIDAY, 10:30PM – 11:30PM
LEEDS
THE PIT, SATURDAY, 10PM – 11PM

BEN! AA ARE TAKING TO READING & LEEDS WITHOUT YOU THIS YEAR – WHAT'S GOING ON?

BEN BRUCE (*GUITAR/VOCALS*): "I'm having a baby and I decided If I missed her birth, I would regret it for the rest of my life. There will be other shows, but I'll never get back the birth of my first child. It's a strange feeling not being there with the lads but everyone has been super-supportive *[see p46 for a review of a Ben-less AA in the UK!]*. Next time I'm back onstage I'll be a dad, which is fucking mental!"

THE GUYS MUST STILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO THEIR READING & LEEDS DEBUT, THOUGH?

"They really are. This is one we've been talking about for the past five or six years. The right opportunity never arose. We've been waiting a long time, so for Asking Alexandria to be headlining The Pit stage is amazing."

WOULD YOU RATHER BE HEADLINING A STAGE LIKE THAT, OR PLAYING HIGHER UP ON THE MAIN STAGE?

"I think for the first time I'd much rather do what we're doing now. When you play the main stage, it's awesome and there's a huge amount of people there. It's a great time and you look like a huge rockstar, but it's hard to prove yourself because you know everyone's going to be there anyway. That's not you that's drawn all those people – that's the festival crowd. I like that idea of showing what we can bring to the festival and working our way up from there."

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THE SET?

"As I said, I think we still have a lot to prove. We've taken a long time thinking about the set list, and there will be an all-new production. Everyone wants it to be the best show we've ever played in the UK."

WITH YOUR SUMMER FULL OF TOURS AND FESTIVALS, DO YOU EVER MISS BEING ABLE TO JUST CHILL OUT OR GO ON AN EXTENDED HOLIDAY?

"I do, but I'm not very good at chilling out if I'm honest. We had a little bit of time off not so long ago, so I went to Hawaii. It was only for four or five days, and after two I was pacing round in the house I'd rented, calling my manager every 10 minutes. I like to keep busy!"

"EXPECT HOOKY MELODIES WITH SCUZZY, HORRIBLE GRUNGE GUITARS!"

BECKY BLOMFIELD

READING
THE PIT, SATURDAY, 5:15PM – 5:55PM
LEEDS
THE PIT, SUNDAY, 4:45PM – 5:25PM

MILK TEETH

MAKING YOUR READING & LEEDS DEBUT? TRY TO KEEP TRACK OF ALL YOUR BAND MEMBERS, EH…

SINCE DROPPING YOUR ALBUM, VILE CHILD, IN JANUARY, HAVE YOU REALLY FELT THE MOMENTUM BUILDING BEHIND YOU?
BECKY BLOMFIELD (*VOCALS/BASS*): "Yeah, it's been pretty crazy. We were so stoked to just have our first record out, really, and it was really well received, and we toured for basically five months straight, from January to May, which was amazing. We did a headline tour for the album, and we got to go to America for the first time. We didn't even know if anyone would know who we were, but the shows were good, and we got to travel and see a lot while we were out there, and met a lot of people, which was very cool."

OUTSIDE OF FESTIVAL BILLINGS, IS THERE ANYONE WHO YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLAY WITH THAT YOU HAVE NOT SO FAR?
"I'd love to play with Green Day, I've always said that – I think it'd be a really fun show. It'd be cool to play with an older band like Melvins, too, that'd be great."

THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME PLAYING READING & LEEDS. HAVE YOU ATTENDED AS A PUNTER?
"Yeah, once before, two or three years ago, and it's definitely amazing to be a part of it now. We're playing a lot of festivals, and it's one of the ones I was super-excited for!"

WHAT SHOULD PEOPLE WHO HAVEN'T SEEN MILK TEETH EXPECT WHEN YOU HIT THE STAGE?
"Hooky melodies with scuzzy, horrible, grunge guitars! There's a lot of energy, too – it's normally like letting the greyhounds out of the box, and especially so with festivals because we've gone from playing every single day of the month to breaks in between shows, so we're full of beans and want to get out there and play! I'll usually walk off the stage in a sweaty adrenaline high – and then 10 minutes later I'm exhausted! I love it."

WILL YOU BE SOAKING UP THE SIGHTS OF THE FESTIVAL AFTER YOU'VE PLAYED?
"For sure. That's one of the best things about this job: we get to go to all of these places and have the chance to watch all of these other bands. As much as I love playing, I've always loved going to see live music, too – so I can't really complain!"

WHICH BAND MEMBER ARE YOU MOST LIKELY TO MISPLACE WHILE ON A FESTIVAL SITE?
"Probably Billy [Hutton, guitar/vocals]. He's super-social, and if there are 50 people in a room he will manage to talk to all 50 of them! He's the king of socialising! He's usually onstage when he's supposed to be, though when we were in America there was one time we were supposed to sound check but we were already running late and he disappeared. I was so pissed off we had a minor fall out, because I was like, 'Billy, for fuck's sake - *where* are you?!' It turned out he was actually across the road at a guitar store buying some more gear!"

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE BEEN VOTED ONE OF KERRANG!'S 50 GREATEST ROCKSTARS IN THE WORLD RIGHT NOW RECENTLY?
"I was stoked. When they told me I couldn't even believe I'd be included, and when I found out I wasn't number 50 – which I was expecting – I was blown away! It's really nice to be recognised for what you do, and we put in a lot of effort in everything we put out. It was cool to be among so many big names, because I still see us as a little baby band."

GOOD CH

WHAT'S IT LIKE WITNESSING THE POP-PUNK LEGENDS AT READING & LEEDS? LIKE A STAR WARS BATTLE…

IT'S NINE MONTHS SINCE GOOD CHARLOTTE RETURNED TO LIVE ACTION. ARE YOU FULLY BACK IN THE GROOVE?
BENJI MADDEN (*GUITAR/VOCALS*): "Yeah, we did a handful of shows when we announced the comeback, a little stint on Warped Tour and the All Time Low shows. It's like riding a bike. I feel like we've shaken the rust off and we're right back in action!"

IS READING & LEEDS THE SINGLE BIGGEST THING SINCE YOU CAME BACK?
"It is, and it was one of the first things we booked when we decided to come back. It was top of the list and I have great memories of the first time we played it. It's a great way to finish off the summer."

WHEN YOU PLAYED IN 2003 IT WAS UNDER A HAIL OF BOTTLES. DID THAT COME OUT OF THE BLUE, SO TO SPEAK?
"I don't think there was anything that was a surprise – especially at that time. We were forewarned about the English festival crowds but the UK crowds are still just the best. When you play the shows you really feel like it's an experience you're sharing with the crowd."

DEAF H

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR WHAT YOU'RE STANDING IN IF YOU FIND YOURSELF NEAR JAMES VECK-GILODI…

EVER SINCE YOU RELEASED THE PAST SIX YEARS, WITH THAT LYRIC ABOUT YOUR MATES PLAYING READING & LEEDS, YOU'VE DONE THE FESTIVAL EVERY YEAR, BAR ONE. DID SOMEBODY GET THE HINT?
JAMES VECK-GILODI (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "I think they must have! I might have to change the line now when we do it live, but at the time it was a big thing for me. It was always something that we wanted to do and when I wrote that song, it was something I felt was never going to happen. I wrote that out of frustration – and then it happened!"

DID YOU BRICK IT WHEN YOU FIRST PLAYED READING & LEEDS?
"I was literally sick. The first time we played it [in 2012] we'd never done anything massive, and I was so nervous that I vomited 30

CHARLOTTE

THAT'S ONE WAY OF PUTTING IT. WHAT WAS IT LIKE UNDER THAT BARRAGE?
"I remember it being really epic. I remember System Of A Down and Metallica played that day, so for Good Charlotte to be on that Main Stage bill was a real feat. One thing Joel [Madden, vocals] has always been amazing at is taking a crowd and making them his. We were young kids and it's still one of my proudest memories. At one point we had the crowd split into two sides, pick up whatever they could find and throw it at each other. From the stage, it looked like a Star Wars battle!"

WAS IT IMPORTANT TO GET THE NEW ALBUM, YOUTH AUTHORITY, OUT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE SO AS NOT TO BE SEEN AS A NOSTALGIA BAND?
"I think for the most part our band is always looking forward and not often dwelling on the past. Coming back was always about making a new record. It was never about doing a tour where we played the entire second album or anything. Looking forward has always been an instinct of ours."

READING
LOCK UP STAGE, SUNDAY 10:30PM – 11:30PM
LEEDS
LOCK UP STAGE, FRIDAY, 10PM – 11PM

CREEPER

CAN BRITISH ROCK'S HOTTEST PROPERTY INDUCT THE R&L MASSES INTO THEIR CULT?

ARE YOU STILL RIDING HIGH OFF THE BACK OF YOUR KERRANG! AWARD BEST BRITISH NEWCOMER WIN AT THE START OF THE SUMMER?
WILL GOULD (*VOCALS*): "Yeah – I was actually holding it earlier on today! I'm still in a bit of shock from it. I actually remember coming offstage after winning it and I was so shocked I couldn't get my breath, and it's one of those things I think I'll remember forever. It still feels a little bit surreal, too, but that whole night was such a laugh. We also just got back from America, and people over there were asking us about the award, too!"

SHOULD THE CROWDS AT READING & LEEDS BRACE THEMSELVES AHEAD OF CREEPER'S DEBUT?
"We're feeling really confident about those shows, which is really weird for us, because normally we're just thinking, 'I hope it goes okay!' But this year we've started believing in ourselves a lot more, having never been sure if we would even have a career. These festivals are such an institution, too, and it's exciting to be a part of that."

WHAT SHOULD PEOPLE NEW TO THE CREEPER CULT EXPECT?
"Something fast and frantic… I'm trying to think of words that [producer/songwriter] Jim Steinman used to describe the bigger Meat Loaf songs… 'Bombastic' – that's a pretty good word for it (*laughs*)!"

WILL YOU BE PARTYING INTO THE EVENING?
"I imagine so, but we've actually gotten a lot better at focusing on playing better at the shows, and some of our earlier shows didn't sound great because we were smashed every day. Some of the Creeper songs are hard to sing, and I imagine after we play we'll be getting very, *very* drunk – but just not beforehand."

HAVE YOU STARTED WORK ON NEW MATERIAL YET?
"We've been so busy and away so much it's hard to find the time – and that's not a bad thing, we've had some amazing experiences and made some great new friends – but we've been very focused on that. We tend to keep whether we've been working on new music or not pretty close to our chests anyway, but the touring schedule certainly has taken up a good deal of our time!"

READING
THE PIT, FRIDAY, 1:55PM – 2:25PM
LEEDS
THE PIT, SATURDAY, 1:40PM – 2:10PM

AVANA

seconds before we went onstage. It was either that or I would have shit myself. We were opening the Main Stage and I was terrified. I peeked round the stage curtain to see if there were any people there. It was so scary that I immediately vomited in a bush!"

DO YOU STILL GET NERVOUS BEFORE A BIG GIG?
"Oh yeah, but it's big gigs *and* small gigs. I get nervous before any gig we play. I don't throw up so much now, I can deal with it a little bit better, but it's still there. In a way I think it's a good thing to keep you on your toes."

YOU'RE SITTING ON A NEW ALBUM. CAN WE EXPECT A BUNCH OF NEW SONGS?
"Definitely! There's the two we've already put out there [Cassiopeia and Sing] and we'll definitely be playing at least one other. You have to strike that balance, though. As much as I like to hear new songs when I see a band, you want to sing along as well, so the majority of the set will definitely be songs that people know!"

READING
BBC RADIO 1 STAGE, SUNDAY, 2:30PM – 3PM
LEEDS
BBC RADIO 1 STAGE, FRIDAY, 2:30PM – 3PM

NOTHING BUT THIEVES

RECKON MATT BELLAMY MIGHT LEND MUSE'S TOURING PARTNERS A DRONE OR TWO FOR THEIR MAIN STAGE BOW?

HOW WAS YOUR READING & LEEDS DEBUT LAST YEAR?
CONOR MASON (*VOCALS*): "It was amazing. That's where I used to go to watch bands when I was younger, so to get to play Reading & Leeds myself was phenomenal. It was about 11:50am but the entire tent was rammed out. It felt like something was starting."

IS IT DIFFICULT TO MAKE AN EARLY SLOT FEEL ROCK'N'ROLL?
"It's a bit weird, but you know what, it almost felt *more* rock'n'roll because people had got up early enough to go and see us. They obviously cared enough about the music to do that."

IS PLAYING IN FRONT OF 40,000 PEOPLE SUPPORTING MUSE GOOD TRAINING FOR THE R&L MAIN STAGE?
"We've done so many shows in the past year-and-a-half that we've definitely had some training. We've not stopped touring. The atmosphere at a huge gig is obviously different from a club gig, which is a lot more intimate. But you can really create a mood and have an incredible time when there are that many people."

DID YOU PICK UP ANY POINTERS FROM THE LIKES OF MUSE FRONTMAN MATT BELLAMY?
"Yeah – get loads of lasers and drones (*laughs*)! I've watched other bands since our first-ever tour with Twin Atlantic and you pick up different things. Every frontman has different techniques and ways to engage the audience, and I've just tried to put it all together into a melting pot. I've thrown my own things in there too – being yourself is the most important thing."

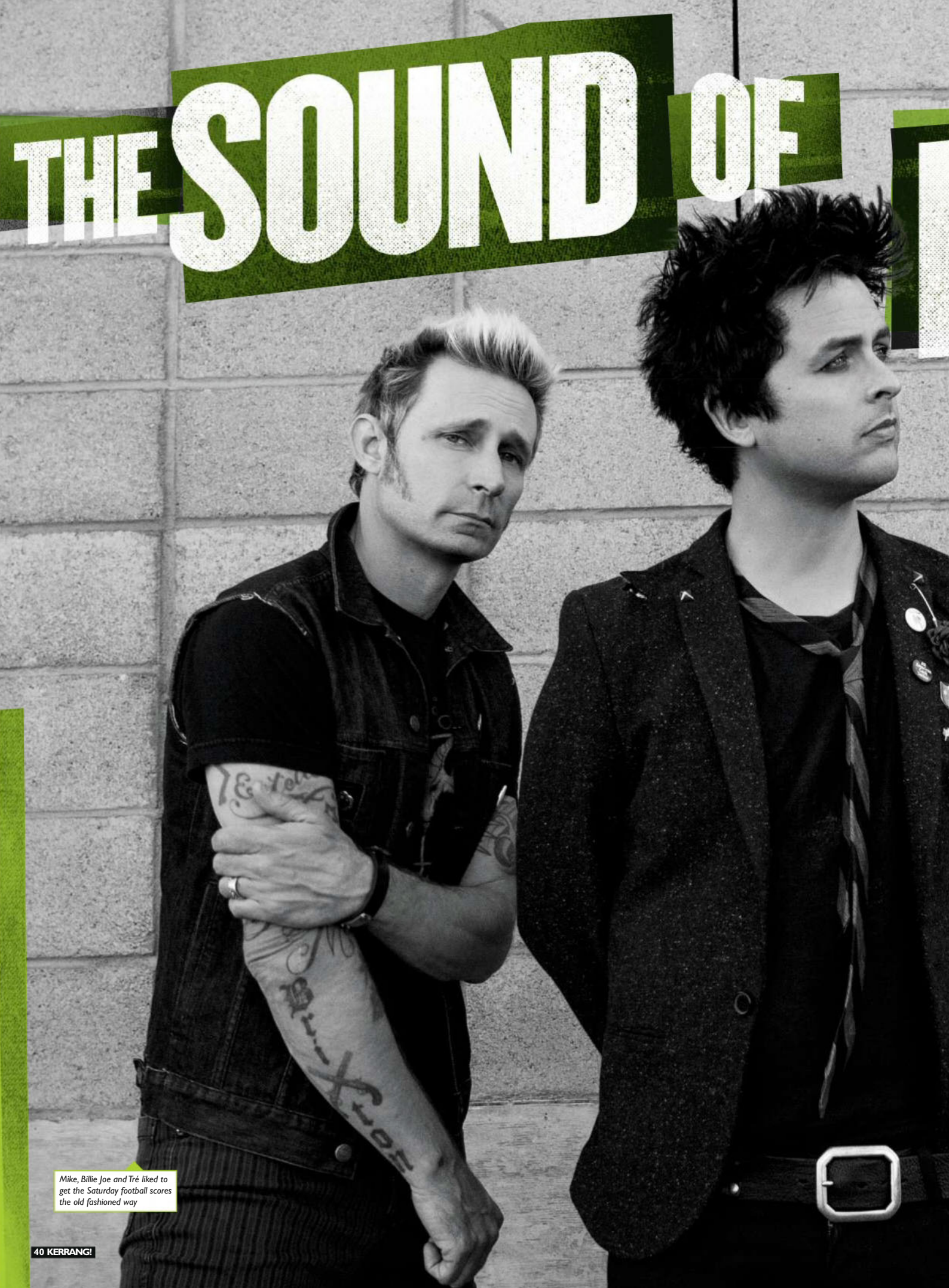
READING
MAIN STAGE, FRIDAY, 2:15PM – 2:50PM
LEEDS
MAIN STAGE, SATURDAY, 1:55PM – 2:25PM

WERE YOU SURPRISED WHEN YOUR DEBUT ALBUM WENT INTO THE TOP 10?
"Yeah, it went in at number seven, and you never expect anything like that when you're writing it. We're really happy with the way that people have received it. The last time we played I think we only had one or two singles out, so I think it will definitely make a difference having the album out. It'll be awesome if we can get a sing-along going."

READING & LEEDS IS ALWAYS A DIVERSE BILL. DOES THAT SUIT WHAT YOU DO AS A BAND?
"Yeah, it really fits around what we do, to be honest. We have our fingers in a lot of different pies in terms of genres, so it definitely fits us. It has a broad scope of alternative music, and so do we."

Follow all the action from Reading & Leeds at Kerrang.com

THE SOUND OF



Mike, Billie Joe and Tré liked to get the Saturday football scores the old fashioned way

REVOLUTION

IN THE SECOND PART OF OUR WORLD-EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW, GREEN DAY TAKE US INSIDE NEW ALBUM REVOLUTION RADIO – AND DEBATE: 'CAN ROCK CHANGE THE WORLD?'

WORDS: NICK RUSKELL
PHOTOS: FRANK MADDOCKS, ANDREW LIPOVSKY

"Shit is *bonkers*!"

The more things change, as French writer Alphonse Karr noted over a century ago, the more they stay the same. So, as Tré Cool sums up the state of the world in 2k16, as he and his Green Day bandmates Billie Joe Armstrong and bassist Mike Dirnt laugh at his poetic way of putting it, you feel like it's a statement he and his band already made on 2004's career-reigniting, president-baiting, world-addressing American Idiot album. But 12 years, four albums and a presidency have passed since then. And all that seems to have really changed is that the volume's been turned up. Look at a paper, your newsfeed, television or turn on the radio, and you'll probably find yourself muttering a similar appraisal of what you're seeing and hearing.

"I wish we could go back to the good kind of crazy!" he follows up with a laugh.

As we found in last week's world-exclusive interview with the trio, the world into which Green Day's forthcoming 12th album, Revolution Radio, is being released seems even more dangerous, corrupt, inequal and downright confusing than it was then. The difference is, last time this happened, Green Day were

on their uppers, and for them to become the biggest band in the world a second time with an album that captured the age's sense of confusion and anger was not what anyone expected. This time, we're almost looking to Billie Joe Armstrong, Mike Dirnt and Tré Cool for, if not the answer, then certainly some sort of sense in this increasingly scary, baffling world.

"The thing about now is, everything feels like it's gone to a new level of crazy," sighs Billie Joe. Case in point: come November, we look at the very real possibility of Donald Trump becoming president of the United States. As a band who went to war with former president George W. Bush through the Rock Against Bush campaign, alongside fellow anti-Bush bands NOFX, Rise Against, Ministry, Alkaline Trio and more, this is cause for serious concern for Green Day. Not least of all because Bush seemed like a dull, simple man without much going on upstairs, whereas the current proposition is a man who has a thousand ideas a second, all of which as terrible as the next, who just shouts them out without stopping to think about them.

"Is Donald Trump more dangerous than Bush?" muses Billie Joe. "Well, Bush was an idiot, but Trump is absolutely crazy. That guy won't listen to people when he comes to make decisions. You can see it already. He just says whatever he thinks of right then [that second]."

"It's self-serving rhetoric," agrees Mike, "And it's *scary*."

Shit, as Green Day's drummer so succinctly put it, is definitely bonkers.

Some things stay the same musically, as well. As previously when Green Day have dealt in protest music, Revolution Radio doesn't deal exclusively in social problems and weary-eyed observations of the world. There's songs that Billie Joe describes as "jovial". There's nostalgic reflections on a carefree youth. There is love. Today, the three of them positively radiate good vibrations as they excitedly talk about the record in a proud, almost dorky manner.

"I'm not afraid of writing a happy song," smiles the frontman. "A song like Youngblood is a totally happy number. I just write whenever I feel like I've got a song. I write a lot and do demos and sometimes you end up with stuff where you don't know where it's gonna go. I like to write a lot of power-pop stuff, or I'll sit around and do covers and record them just for fun. I just love writing songs, it's a fun thing to do."

But as Billie Joe and co delve into certain parts of the new record, there's also something almost dutiful about the need to address certain things. The increasing amount of tabs being kept on normal people, for one thing.

"We feel like we're under surveillance all the time," he sighs. "There's police on patrol everywhere. And we do it to ourselves. So as soon as something goes down in Ferguson [Missouri, the scene of unrest following the fatal shooting of an African American man by police in 2014], then suddenly you have a police state. And I wish I was over-exaggerating. I really do, because it almost sounds like (*waves hand dismissively*), 'Aaah…', but it's true. This is the shit that goes on weekly."

Another song, Troubled Times, deals with the atrocities in Paris last November, when terrorists opened fire across the city, killing 89 people at an Eagles Of Death Metal gig at the city's Bataclan theatre alone. It almost didn't make it onto Revolution Radio's final tracklisting, but when another tragedy happened, the frontman realised it was the right thing to do.

"I wrote that song right after what happened in Paris, and you just [felt] like the world is completely out of control," he reveals. "I was *this* close to not putting that song on the record, because I started to feel like I don't want to disrespect Eagles Of Death Metal. But then Orlando [where 49 people died in a nightclub shooting] happened and I was like, 'This song *deserves* to go on the record. It's just a fact.'"

"TRUMP WON'T LISTEN TO PEOPLE. HE JUST SAYS WHATEVER HE THINKS OF RIGHT THEN"
BILLIE JOE ARMSTRONG

One point that comes up many times while the band discuss these tragedies is how much the world has changed. Billie Joe Armstrong and Mike Dirnt are 44 years old, while Tré Cool is 43. And as a person is wont to do as time advances ever on and they find themselves looking at entire new generations of folk younger than they are, they all observe that things have changed, not necessarily for the better. The difference between men like Green Day and the boring old fart down the pub who insists everything was better back in the day is that their observations come backed up with a wisdom all too rare from rock musicians. The level of violence being broadcast to us through rolling 24-hour TV news, smartphones and the 101 other ways we're bombarded with information in the modern world is a far cry from what the band themselves observed growing up.

"The younger people, they are getting desensitised to constant violence and all these reports of mass shootings and killings here and death on the internet," says Tré. "They're used to that, and they are getting desensitised."

"Whether it's Sandy Hook [the scene of a school shooting that claimed the lives of 26 people] to Orlando, we have become desensitised," agrees Billie Joe. "It's not as shocking as it used to be."

"I feel like we're living in a completely different world," says Mike. "I still feel vital in it, but I feel like it's a completely different world than we grew up in, to a degree."

Where the band say we've become somewhat desensitised to atrocities through frequency and repetition, that feeling has also filtered down into normal, everyday life. It means the world in which Green Day's own children are growing up in and will inherit is markedly different to the one the three of them knew when they were younger.

"My kids are gonna grow up seeing things that I never saw," Mike reckons. "Like Mixed Martial Arts – when that first came out, people were like, 'Oh fuck, that's fucking violent.' And now they play it on the TV in restaurants! I'm supposed to eat and watch this shit wherever I go?! Nothing makes me fucking hungrier than watching two guys in fucking weenie bikinis kicking the shit out of each other.

"Video games are different now, too," he continues once the three of them have finished chuckling. "You go in, you're actually in there shooting and killing people. And it's gotta take a toll [but] I don't have the solutions."

And maybe that's why when Green Day talk about these things, it's something you actually want to listen to and consider. Because, like the rest of us, they *don't* have solutions. If they did, they'd be put to much better use setting about mending the world, rather than playing music. But what they do have is a voice, and as one of the biggest bands in the world – punk or otherwise – they have a louder voice than most.

Billie Joe Armstrong doesn't want to tell you what to do, and isn't trying to. But he does hope that his words and his music and the work of he and his bandmates will get people thinking, talking, discussing, and getting ideas for an answer to the world's problems.

"I'm not a politician," he says. "I don't want to tell people what to do. I don't have an answer. I'm not a pundit. I feel more like I'm reporting what I see and doing it with song."

Green Day: always prepared for a snap wedding

NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN

DURING GREEN DAY'S BREAK, THEY GOT UP TO A FEW THINGS. MIKE DIRNT EVEN LEARNED TO PLAY BASS. UH, WHAT?

Billie Joe may downplay the importance of his lyrics somewhat ("I'm in a really good relationship with my wife, so I have to figure out something to write about," he chuckles), but when people do get inspired by his band to go and do something, he says he's genuinely delighted. Like with the Pennsylvania theatre group who took American Idiot: The Musical and ran with the idea, adding a twist of their own. Namely, inserting a Black Lives Matter slant, as a commentary on the shameful statistics of the number of black Americans killed by police every year, compared to a relatively low number of white casualties.

"I was blown away, because it's taking it to another level," he beams proudly. "Even when I think of punk, it's like the same thing. People are taking it to whatever socially that we're at at the moment. I just thought it was really interesting and I'd love to see it. And they just *did* it. I didn't know anything about it. I read about it in the paper and thought it was cool. I was like, 'Yeah, they don't ask for permission, they just go!'"

"Which is fucking awesome," adds Mike. "They're inspired to just do something, and that's the nucleus of creativity."

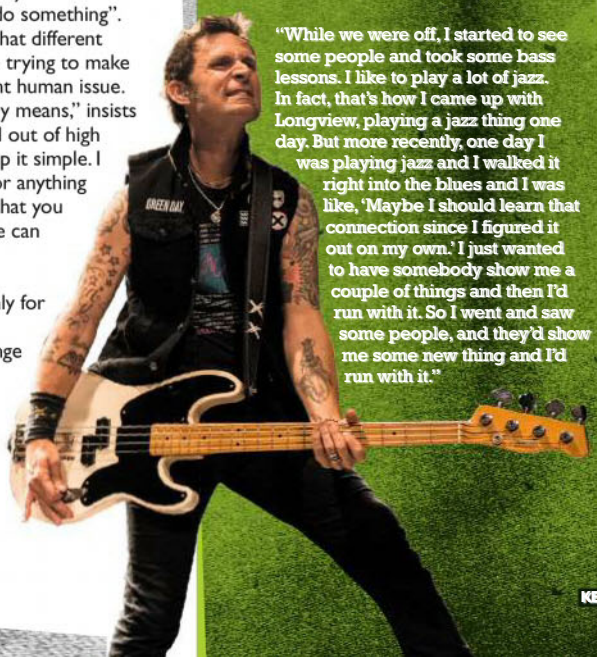
Indeed it is. And that's where Green Day came from. Because although the band sat with Kerrang! today are a ginormous one, with money and influence you can only begin to speculate at, they're also three very normal, very nice dudes who were similarly inspired to "do something". And in that respect, they're not that different from you, me, or a theatre group trying to make their voice heard on an important human issue.

"I'm not an educated guy by any means," insists Billie Joe with a shrug. "I dropped out of high school at 17 and I just try to keep it simple. I don't have a degree at Harvard or anything like that, so it's kinda like a blog that you put music to. The fact that people can relate to it is great."

And in the world right now, Revolution Radio is needed. If only for one very important reason.

"I don't know if music can change the world," smiles the singer in closing, "but it sure has a great soundtrack to it."

REVOLUTION RADIO IS RELEASED ON OCTOBER 7 VIA REPRISE



"While we were off, I started to see some people and took some bass lessons. I like to play a lot of jazz. In fact, that's how I came up with Longview, playing a jazz thing one day. But more recently, one day I was playing jazz and I walked it right into the blues and I was like, 'Maybe I should learn that connection since I figured it out on my own.' I just wanted to have somebody show me a couple of things and then I'd run with it. So I went and saw some people, and they'd show me some new thing and I'd run with it."

THE SONGS THAT SAVED MY LIFE

THE AUSSIE QUARTET ARE FAST BECOMING 2016'S POP-PUNK SUCCESS STORY. BUT WHAT WAS IT THAT INSPIRED THE FRONTMAN TO START THE BAND IN THE FIRST PLACE? AND WHO'S DODGY EASY-LISTENING CD IS THIS...?

THIS WEEK: JAYDEN SEELEY, WITH CONFIDENCE

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME THINK OF HOME IS...

HOME

MICHAEL BUBLÉ

"This is a bit lame, but when I was 13 I travelled to New Zealand with my family for a few weeks, and at one point I missed home. My dad put on this song, and it's basically an ode to missing everyone back at home and feeling a bit homesick. When I hear it now, home is all I think about. I've listened to it a couple of times recently, because we've been on tour for about four months, and it helps."
FIND IT: It's Time (2005)

THE SONG THAT MADE ME WANT TO BE A MUSICIAN WAS...

PARADISE

COLDPLAY

"When I was 18 I had to make a decision as to what I wanted to do. I was on the brink of buying a pick-up truck and going to work for my dad in roofing, but I was Facebook chatting to Josh [Brozzesi, drums] at 2am, and this song came on. There was just something in it that inspired me. There and then I decided to study music at college with Josh, where the band then formed, and I've never looked back."
FIND IT: Mylo Xyloto (2011)

"MICHAEL BUBLÉ CURES HOMESICKNESS"
JAYDEN SEELEY

THE SONG THAT'S MADE ME THE MOST CASH IS...

TAKE ME AWAY

WITH CONFIDENCE

"The song that first got us attention was We'll Be Okay. But the most cash we've made off a song is this one. The reason for that is that we were contacted by the Smithsonian Channel in the States, because they wanted to use it on advertisements for a travel programme. The lyrics tied into the scenic shots they were using, and they gave us a bunch of money for it!"
FIND IT: Distance (2015)

THE LAST SONG I LISTENED TO WAS...

DEADWEIGHT

ROAM

"I was walking around Warped Tour today and I stopped to catch some of ROAM's set, and this was the song they finished with – it's a great song! I love this band, I love their energy. It makes you just want to jump around and have a good time. They're definitely one of the bands who killed it on Warped this year, and I love that this song starts with Alex [Costello, vocals] just screaming, '*Deadweight!*'"
FIND IT: Backbone (2016)

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME WANT TO CRY IS...

PERTH

BON IVER

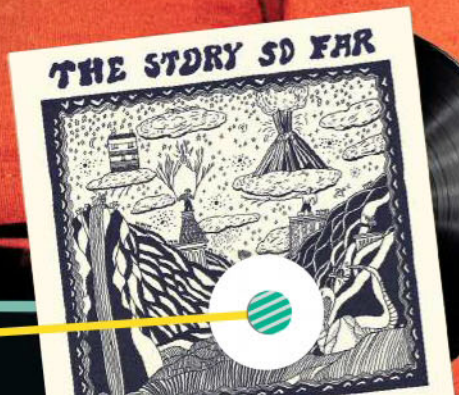
"Honestly, I'm a pretty closed-off guy and I can't remember the last time I actually cried, but if there's a song that could provoke that emotion it's probably this one. Without fail, he will always evoke the emotions he's expressing lyrically with his music, and the combination of the two can be so poignant. With this one it's almost the music more than the lyrics. It's the minor chords that are played, and the instrumentation that gets you a little choked up."
FIND IT: Bon Iver, Bon Iver (2011)

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME WANT TO STAGE-DIVE IS...

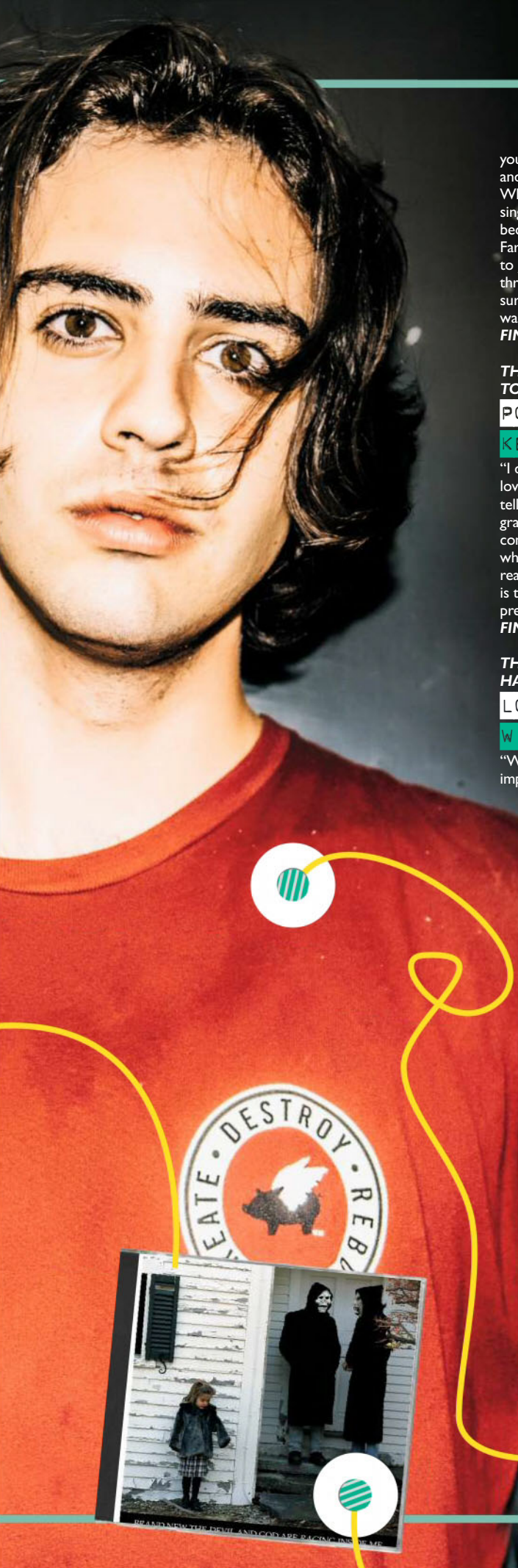
NERVE

THE STORY SO FAR

"I relate to that song pretty strongly, because it kind of evokes what it's like when



WORDS: DAN SLESSOR PHOTO: LINDSEY BYRNES



you're in your early 20s and in a band on tour. When I hear it I'll be singing every lyric. And because it's The Story So Far it's super-upbeat, so of course you want to jump up on any stage they're on and throw yourself off it! I actually did crowd-surf during their set at Slam Dunk, which was so much fun!"
FIND IT: The Story So Far (2015)

THE SONG YOU WOULDN'T EXPECT TO FIND ON MY IPOD IS...

POETIC JUSTICE

KENDRICK LAMAR

"I don't think people know how much I love R&B and hip-hop. The album this is off tells a story, and I really feel Kendrick Lamar grabbed the torch from where Dr. Dre was coming from, and he's kept the fire burning while putting a fresh spin on it. One of the reasons this song really stands out to me is the lyrics are so fucking good – and it's pretty heavy stuff."
FIND IT: Good Kid, M.A.A.D City (2012)

THE WITH CONFIDENCE SONG THAT'S HARDEST TO PLAY IS...

LONDON LIGHTS

WITH CONFIDENCE

"When playing live I think it's really important to get into the headspace you were in when you wrote a song, so I'll always try to step back into what I was feeling, and really mean what I'm singing. It's a story of a girl that broke my heart, but at the same time I broke her heart. The line, '*I still miss your mother, your sister and brother / But it doesn't really matter to me now*', has definitely choked me up in the past."
FIND IT: Distance (2015)

THE SONG WITH THE GREATEST LYRICS EVER IS...

JESUS CHRIST

BRAND NEW

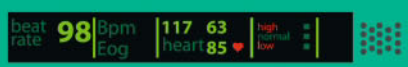
"Brand New are my favourite band. Lyrically the album this is off is fucking incredible, but this one is *perfect*. Though [Brand New frontman] Jesse Lacey's lyrics can be riddled with metaphor, he just finds a way of making something so simple work. Lines like, '*Jesus Christ, I'm alone again*', or, '*Jesus Christ, I'm not scared to die*' – it's not complicated, it's very straightforward, but you hear it in the context of the music, and it just affects you so much."
FIND IT: The Devil And God Are Raging Inside Me (2006)

THE BEST SONG EVER WRITTEN IS...

DON'T LOOK BACK IN ANGER

OASIS

"There's something about the way Oasis construct their songs that puts them on a level all of their own. This is a truly perfect song. The chord progressions, the vocal melodies, the lyrics, and the production that is so authentic mean that I could honestly listen to it a million times over and still appreciate it just as much. Oasis are one of the greats, and they're one of the greats for a reason. If you doubt that, listen to this song."
FIND IT: (What's the Story) Morning Glory? (1995)



A SECRET ABOUT ONE OF MY SONGS IS...

VOLDEMORT

WITH CONFIDENCE

"At the very end there's all this crowd noise and ambience. I had this vision for the song, where I wanted it to sound happy and carefree, and having that sound of revelry at the end contributed to it. We actually recorded that in a bar called Frank's in Sydney – and nobody knew we were recording. We just sat in a booth with a portable mic and captured the sound of people *really* having a good time."
FIND IT: Better Weather (2016)

LIVES

RATINGS

KKKKKK = CLASSIC
KKKK = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD
KK = AVERAGE
K = POOR

STAR SHOUT!

DENIS STOFF
(VOCALS)

WERE THERE ANY NERVES COMING INTO THESE SHOWS WITHOUT BEN?
"I mean, obviously, we're one man down, but it's been really good. Sam Graves… big-ups to him for fucking standing up and helping us out to get through these shows. I think it was great. I wouldn't want to miss it, either, if I were him."

IT MUST FEEL COOL SEEING THE FANS GO AS NUTS FOR THE NEW SONGS?
"Dude, it's great… I'm just stoked that everyone's just taken the new music so well. We're all so stoked, we're already writing new shit. I'm just fucking lost for words right now – I've just got offstage and I'm blown away by all the support we're getting from England. I love it!"

AND WE'RE GUESSING YOU'RE NOT FEELING LIKE 'THE NEW GUY' ANYMORE?
"Not really, not gonna lie. It's been a year and half, we're over halfway deep in the album cycle. We've got Reading & Leeds, which is exciting, plus a winter tour that's not announced yet!"

What is Denis' favourite way to keep fit? Tongue Fu!

ASKING ALEXANDRIA

PLUS: SHVPES

KOKO, LONDON. 16.08.16

KKKK

THE BOYS FROM YORKSHIRE (VIA UKRAINE) WIN BIG IN LONDON DESPITE BEING DOWN A MAN

WORDS: RYAN COOPER **PHOTOS:** PAUL HARRIES

THESE 'INTIMATE' shows have been over a year in the making for Asking Alexandria. Back in June 2015, AA were due to play a handful of tiny UK venues – gigs that were cancelled in the wake of newly-appointed frontman Denis Stoff's visa issues. After a year that has seen Denis solidify himself in the band – they've made a 5K-rated album; they triumphed at Warped UK; they became the first band to ever play the K! Awards, where they also picked up the Best British Band award; and they survived the Gathering Of The Juggalos – it comes time to, really, make up for those cancelled shows. Only now, Ben Bruce is the one missing, albeit for much happier reasons, as he is expecting the birth of his first child. But the show, for his bandmates, must go on.

First up, though, SHVPES. A band who have also had a frontman switch (back when they were Cytota, leading to the name change) and come out the other side stronger. Said frontman, Griffin Dickinson – inheriting the showman genes from his father, Bruce – leads the Birmingham lot through a magnificent set that sees their technical metal whip spectators into a frenzy. A crowd which, let's not forget, were already wall-of-deathing before the lights had gone down. SHVPES' future, then: looks to be MVSSIVE.

As Ben clarified in a statement in the days prior to this show, "This band has always lived by 'family first'." While Mr Bruce is waiting on one birth, Camden's KOKO is witnessing another. That of Denis Stoff: The Band Leader. When Danny Worsnop left Asking Alexandria in January 2015, Ben became de facto head honcho. Even in the shows before this first proper UK headline run, Ben was there providing the banter. Tonight, Denis Stoff embraces this position as easily as his band is known to drink venue bars dry. And the fans, in true family spirit, support the guys onstage like, well, family.

From opener I Won't Give In, Denis writhes over the ego risers like a character from American (Ukrainian?) Horror Story, and on The Death Of Me, it's as if his voice was the only to have ever sung the words of the Danny-era single in front of this throng of fans. Whether old or new, the crowd threaten to drown out everyone and everything. It helps that the band are tighter than the swimming trunks of the Olympians over in Rio, with Ben's parts being looked after by friend of the band Sam Graves (of With One Last Breath).

As the night comes to a close a little quicker than some may have hoped with The Final Episode (Let's Change The Channel) – only 12 songs tonight, folks – Asking Alexandria have shown that one man down ain't down and out.

Denis learned not to tell people about his expensive necklace the hard way

Even the unholiest of metal gods worry about leaving the oven on…

BLOODSTOCK

CATTON HALL, DERBYSHIRE. 11 – 14.08.16

REIGN IN BLOODSTOCK! SLAYER, MASTODON AND MANY MORE DESTROY THE UK'S BEST EXTREME METAL FESTIVAL

WORDS: STEVE BEEBEE, SAM LAW, PAUL TRAVERS **PHOTOS:** ANDY GALLAGHER

FRIDAY

CATTON HALL's grounds are lovely. Sheep graze on a hillside, the River Trent meanders lazily through it, a man in corpse paint chugs from a goat horn… Ah, it's Bloodstock weekend, which means the regal tranquillity is, for three days, broken up by absolute metal mayhem. And this year, with a Kerrang! Award for Best Festival under their bullet belt, Bloodstock have thrown the mother of all parties to celebrate. Could any band be more ludicrously entertaining than **GLORYHAMMER**'s **(KKKK)** unicorn-soaked power metal? Well yes, if that band is **EVIL SCARECROW (KKKKK)**. After just two appearances, the budget GWAR have become a Bloodstock institution, drawing a bigger crowd than some headliners for their mass crab scuttles and robot dancing.

VENOM (KKK) mainman Cronos jokes that he's surprised he's not burst into flames, but even in bright sunlight the Brit metal legends bring the darkness with a rumbling set of Satan-praising sluggers. Where Venom brawl, **BEHEMOTH (KKKKK)** slice with surgical precision. They might have stepped down from their headlining position of 2012 but this is a stage-stealing performance filled with drama, ritual, a magnificent run through The Satanist and Ov Fire And The Void, plus masks, flames and evil confetti.

The reason they're not closing this year is the final-ever UK show of **TWISTED SISTER (KKKK)** who, it seems, no longer want to rock. But for one last blow-out Bloodstock gets to party like it's 1984, raising horns and hollering along to the rambunctious We're Not Gonna Take It one last time. We shall miss you, you big-haired loons.

Whoa, dude literally headbanged his eyes out

Who is this smiley guy and what have you done with Nergal?!

Brent caught a bargain at Nottingham's '70s car-boot sale before the set

STAR SHOUT!

BILL KELLIHER

(MASTODON, GUITAR)

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO FINALLY HEADLINE A UK FESTIVAL?

"It feels good. Does it feel like a culmination? The more people ask me that, the more that it does. Everything we do feels like an accomplishment."

IS IT AT ALL A CHALLENGE TO HEADLINE 'DENIM-AND-LEATHER' TYPE SHOWS LIKE THIS?

"It's an intense festival in terms of leather, spikes and death metal. But I don't feel intimidated in the UK!"

Joey found it hilarious Scott still hadn't spotted the tattoo they did on him while he was passed out

STAR SHOUT!

SCOTT IAN

(ANTHRAX, GUITAR)

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE BACK AT BLOODSTOCK?

"It was great. Everything that we hoped for – maybe even better than 2013. We were way better, for sure. The crowd was well up for it. It was a perfect day, a perfect slot – the best show of the summer, for sure."

YOU BROUGHT SOME OF THE SUN WITH YOU!

"I think it's the first time in England where I've played a festival with the sun out. It was blinding me onstage. I never thought I'd need sunblock in the UK!"

Twisted Sister's farewell gig was a good idea considering they set their frontman on fire

SATURDAY

■ SATURDAY'S BILL has so many great bands in so little time that you quickly do the **AKERCOCKE (KKKK)** and you turn around. Creative death metal is what it's all about until **VODUN (KKK)** bring their unique death-by-soul zest to the Sophie Lancaster stage. **THE KING IS BLIND (KKK)** follow this with a riff-soaked bludgeoning. Less nuance, and more nuisance, they'll always be welcome here.

"I wish the sun would fuck off!" mock-moans **PARADISE LOST (KKK)** frontman Nick Holmes. We're rather enjoying it, but dour Northern grit doesn't exactly flourish in the sunshine, although Hallowed Land is still goth metal perfection. **GOJIRA's (KKKK)** Gallic heft points the way forward, however. A band in transition, Bloodstock samples the crunchy old and the cerebral new, happily ordering a slice of both. But this is **MASTODON's (KKKK)** big moment as first-time festival headliners, and they celebrate by creating mountains of sludge metal you can slither down with pleasure. Oblivion and The Motherload sound like a collision of worlds might look, and in this slot, their juggernaut is unstoppable.

SUNDAY

■ ANGUISH. MISERY. Despair. Yep, the Sunday hangovers are pretty brutal. But screw that – there's no moping from **UNEARTH (KKK)**. Piling on muscular positivity, the bruisers risk blandness, but they still impress. Celebrating 20 years of Nemesis Divina with a rearranged run-through, **SATYRICON (KKKK)** overspill with medieval darkness. Oddly, though, it's the black'n'roll thunder of newer tracks Black Crow On A Tombstone and K.I.N.G. that land the cleanest hits. In contrast, the widdly power of **DRAGONFORCE (KKK)** seems a little insubstantial. Thankfully, there's fuck all missing from **ANTHRAX's (KKKKK)** riotous thrash masterclass. Indians, Madhouse, Caught In A Mosh – all classics deserving of chaos – tonight they knock Bloodstock off its hinges.

"Have you ever tried making this an actual blood-fest?" teases Tom Araya before **SLAYER (KKKK)** bludgeon the army of screaming metalheads in front of them. Some clown lets off a crimson smoke-bomb in the midst of it all – but he needn't have bothered. Between inverted-cross amp-stacks spewing fire and the ever-heavy Raining Blood, the Californians have already brought the red mist down. Same time next year? We'll bring the bandages…

REVIEWS

RATINGS
KKKKK = CLASSIC
KKKK = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD
KK = AVERAGE
K = POOR

A DAY TO REMEMBER

BAD VIBRATIONS *(ADTR RECORDS)*

KKKK

OCALA POP-PUNKS REMIND US WHY WE LOVE THEM ON ALBUM NUMBER SIX

THIRTEEN YEARS and six albums into their career, A Day To Remember have just one goal. "Pretty much all we're aiming for these days is adding songs to this Top 10 Best Songs We've Ever Written list," said frontman Jeremy McKinnon, in his most recent K! interview. "That doesn't really exist, but it does to us." Ask the lyricist which songs make up that list and he'll admit he's never actually tried to put it together, but offer The Downfall Of Us All, I'm Made Of Wax Larry, What Are You Made Of? and All Signs Point To Lauderdale as obvious inclusions, before pondering, "I think we have a few contenders on this record."

The opening title-track sets the tone for the Ocala quintet's heaviest record since 2007's For Those Who Have Heart. It rolls into your auditory canal with all the subtlety of a subway train, and all the vitriol aimed at leisurely tourists during rush-hour delay. Two tracks that see Jeremy reach fist-clenching levels of angry are Exposed and Reassemble. '*Like a shark that's combing the surface, we got a taste for blood*', he sings on the former – their first track dabbling in politics – before letting out a growl as threatening as his words. His screams go from menacing to unsettling on the latter, which sees someone falling apart from addiction contemplate whether they're worth putting back together. It's an outburst that contrasts beautifully with the song's haunting and delicate outro.

As crushing as Bad Vibrations sounds, it still brings with it the glorious sing-alongs everyone expects from its creators, making this everything you want from an A Day To Remember album. Moments away from the aggression include We Got This, an almost-ballad featuring the encouraging lyric, '*To anyone who's alone in a crowded room, put your hands up high, sing it out of tune*', and Naivety, which proves Americans are way better at writing super-fun pop-punk tunes than they are at pronouncing 'naivety' (*winky face*). Elsewhere, the fivesome show they're not afraid to break away from their tried-and-tested formula and experiment, with an interesting System Of A Down-style intro on Same About You, which also includes a rare guitar solo, and the biggest (and super-old-school ADTR-sounding) chorus on the record.

Then, of course, there's the singles Paranoia and Bullfight, both of which strike the perfect balance between heavy and catchy, a feat nobody – and we really mean *nobody* – can pull of quite like this band. Might have to make that list a Top 20, guys…

DOWNLOAD: Paranoia, Bullfight.
FOR FANS OF: Architects, blink-182.
JENNYFER J. WALKER

"IF IT'S NOT GOOD, IT DOESN'T GO ON THE RECORD"

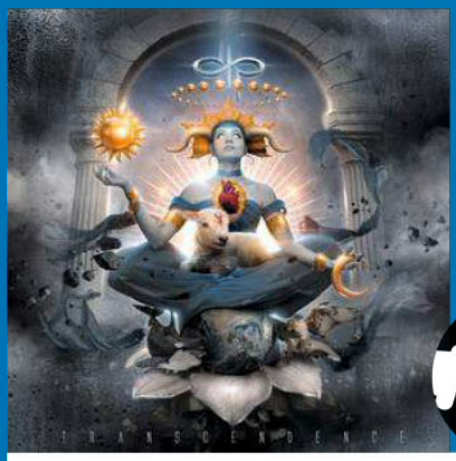
JEREMY McKINNON

THE INSIDER
JEREMY McKINNON
(VOCALS)

IN THE K! COVER STORY, YOU SAID THAT YOU HAD 40 SONGS LEFT OVER?!
"There were two that I was sad didn't make the record, but they were both my fault (*laughs*). I'm pretty hard on us when it comes to putting stuff together. If I can't come up with something that is *very* good, or *very* memorable, then it doesn't go on the album. So there's two songs I could definitely see us finishing one day, but I just couldn't for whatever reason at the time. One's a little bit darker, more like a driving rock song, but kinda mellow at the same time, and then the other was way more pop-punk."

TELL US ABOUT THE IDEA BEHIND THE COVER ART?
"The cover art was actually one of the longest processes of the entire record – it took at least half a year. We turned it into a dirty, dingy subway station with a person waiting at a subway stop. And I don't really know why we went that route… but I like to think it's because we were in New York and we took the subway to mixing every day – me and Neil [Westfall, guitar] lived there for three weeks during that process."

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE MEMORY FROM THE STUDIO?
"We went white water rafting near the end of the session, with Jason Livermore, the engineer of the album, and Tim [McIlrath] from Rise Against, who was randomly in town, so he came with his family. I had done it before and this time wasn't too crazy, but it was fun. You gotta break up the monotony of being in the studio sometimes."



TRACK BY TRACK

THE DEVIN TOWNSEND PROJECT

TRANSCENDENCE *(INSIDE OUT)*

KKKK

HEVY DEVY AIMS FOR A HIGHER PLANE ON SEVENTH ALBUM FROM HIS PROGGY PROJECT

1 TRUTH
Always different, always the same, but one thing you know for sure with Canadian musical maverick Devin Townsend is: you're in for something only he can think up. Once again, 'epic' is the name of Mr Townsend's game. And what better way to convey that than with this titanic slice of ethereal swooshes, crunchy guitar and dreamy vocals? And it just keeps getting *bigger*.

2 STORMBENDING
So, '*Time is a human construct*', eh, Devin? Well, the gorgeous throbbing of this one could have lasted a bit longer, sir…

3 FAILURE
…whereas this somewhat plodding track overstays its welcome a little. Nice falsetto vocals, though.

4 SECRET SCIENCES
What the record really needs now is a Brian May-esque guitar solo… Ah, there it is! Choruses don't come any more cinematic than this.

5 HIGHER
Devin's scream is finally unleashed here over nearly 10 minutes of drama, melodrama, understatement and overstatement. And the sky-searing climax is, well, *transcendent*.

6 STARS
After two minutes of dreamy layers, the gruff guitars arrive. And with them, the oomph required to launch this into the stratosphere.

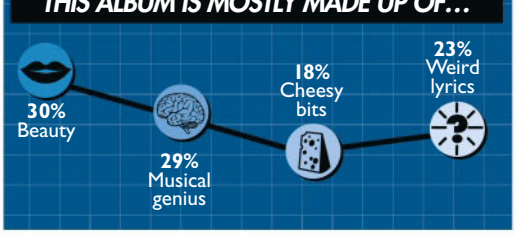
7 TRANSCENDENCE
Imagine Rammstein grappling with Dream Theater and a choir in the biggest room ever. *Ever*.

8 OFFER YOUR LIGHT
Picking up the tempo and unleashing the synth wobbles, this stomper sees Devin scream his lungs out.

9 FROM THE HEART
Just when you thought it couldn't get any prettier… this panoramic ditty is as lovely as it gets, leading you to your happy place.

10 TRANSDERMAL CELEBRATION
Wrapping things up on a suitably epic high, after commencing with a country-esque strum everything comes crashing in, collapsing into delicate synth washes. This man can do no wrong.

THIS ALBUM IS MOSTLY MADE UP OF…



WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

COLUMBUS

SPRING FOREVER *(UNFD)*

KKKK

AUSSIE ALT.ROCKERS DELIVER THE BEST RECORD JIMMY EAT WORLD NEVER MADE

■ THERE'S SUCH a thing as being *too* nostalgic. This does not apply to Spring Forever, which evokes late-'90s emo so perfectly it's impossible to escape the sense that it's been a part of your life since way back when. With the exception of the spikier Stay, every track feels oh-so warm and reassuring, coming with a touch of melancholy, evoking memories of the end of the best summer you ever lived. Columbus are at their most plaintive on Nervous Wreck, while every other track is gloriously rousing, helped by frontman Alex Moses' from-the-gut delivery driving the emotion home over and over again. Dig out your old emo diaries and relive the glory days.

DOWNLOAD: Say What You Want.
FOR FANS OF: The Get Up Kids, As It Is.

DAN SLESSOR

FOREVER NEVER

SPEAK UP! *(FOREVER NEVER)*

KK

BRIT METALLERS MAKE A RETURN. BUT WILL ANYBODY CARE?

■ WHEN SOME bands return from hiatus, it's a world-wobbling major event. Even the vaguest hint of MCR getting back together broke the internet, whereas the return of Forever Never is more likely to elicit no more than a minor shrug. Speak Up! is unlikely to cause a great deal more excitement, even if it does make it to the ears of the public at large. It isn't terrible, and there are plenty of chugging riffs and melodies, but it's all a little too tame and forgettable. The anaemic rap-rock passages never quite let rip, and the pop-metal hooks poke the skin without tearing flesh. The result is an EP that promises a lot, but really doesn't give you anything to shout about.

DOWNLOAD: We Won't Save The World.
FOR FANS OF: Papa Roach, Breed 77.

PAUL TRAVERS

ALLEGAEON

PROPONENT FOR SENTIENCE

(METAL BLADE)

KKK

GRANDIOSE SOUNDS AND CONCEPTS FROM PROG DEATHSTERS

■ WHEN AN album's title-track is split into three parts totalling over 20 minutes, it's clear that its composers are not lacking in musical ambition. With orchestral sections and flamenco guitar sharing space with frantic tech-metal and vocalist Riley McShane's death growls, Allegaeon skimp on neither grandeur nor aggression throughout this fourth opus. Indeed, these symphonies of destruction are topped by lyrics dissecting the knotty subject of artificial intelligence and the dangers it holds for humanity. The mixture of compositional artistry and musical chops on display make it plain that Allegaeon don't need to worry about their jobs being lost to robotic replacements any time soon, while the epic nature of Proponent For Sentience suggests that they could score a sci-fi blockbuster with ease.

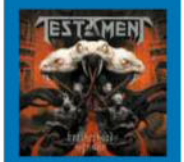
DOWNLOAD: Of Mind And Matrix.
FOR FANS OF: Fleshgod Apocalypse, Cryptopsy.

OLLY THOMAS

LYRIC OF THE WEEK

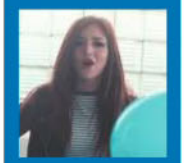
'This is your wake-up call / Your chance to change it all…' sings Lower Than Atlantis frontman Mike Duce in the opening seconds of brand-new single, Work For It. We like where he's going with this – it reminded us of Michael Jackson's, *'If you want to make the world a better place…'* line from hit Man In The Mirror.

BAND: Lower Than Atlantis
SONG: Work For It
ALBUM: TBC



SLEEVE OF THE WEEK

U.S. thrash masters Testament are returning with album number 11, Brotherhood Of The Snake, this October. And if the music is anywhere near as epic as the cover, we're in for a right treat.



VIDEO OF THE WEEK

YOUNG & RELENTLESS, AGAINST THE CURRENT

Have you ever wanted to see Chrissy Costanza slapping balloons on the streets of Chicago? Or enjoying some co-ordinated leg-crossing with her bandmates? Well, the good news: is now you can!

BAYSIDE

VACANCY *(HOPELESS)*

KKKK

PUNK ROCK STALWARTS TURN THE POP FACTOR UP TO 11

■ PERHAPS THERE'S something in the water, but punk rock recently has fallen massively back in love with huge pop hooks. New York rabble-rousers Bayside have often had a good deal of dramatic flair underpinning their rumbling tunes, but their seventh record might just be their most melodically expansive yet. I've Been Dead All Day introduces honky-tonk piano to their punky scuffle, while Mary is a whirling heart-on-sleeve-tattoos show tune. As with all experimentation, some combinations don't stick (Not Fair's harpsichord interlude is more Bach-side than Bayside), but there's no denying that in Pretty Vacant (not the Sex Pistols hit FYI) they have a summery chorus the size of the Himalayas. So if you haven't before, then now is the time to make some room for Bayside in your life.

DOWNLOAD: Mary.
FOR FANS OF: The Menzingers, The Gaslight Anthem.

JAMES MACKINNON

FINSTERFORST

#YØLØ *(NAPALM)*

KK

GERMAN BLACK METALLERS GIVE YOU THAT EXTRA DRINK YOU REALLY DON'T NEED

■ YOU KNOW when you wake up the morning after a heavy night, and as the day slowly unfolds, you painfully start to remember things from the night before? That's what this EP is like: the worst bits of being drunk recalled in comedic folk-black metal style. Except it's not nearly as funny in the cold light of day. Opener Bottle Gods is a cheese-fest that makes Turisas sound like Tool, while the unnecessary cover of Miley Cyrus' Wrecking Ball does not need to be heard by anyone, ever. It's only beaten by the even worse reworking of Michael Jackson's Beat It. Yeah, it's a laugh, but it's the sort of thing you can do for free with your mates when you're half-cut.

DOWNLOAD: Bottle Gods.
FOR FANS OF: Turisas, Tankard.

NICK RUSKELL

THE WOUNDED KINGS

VISIONS IN BONE *(CANDLELIGHT/SPINEFARM)*

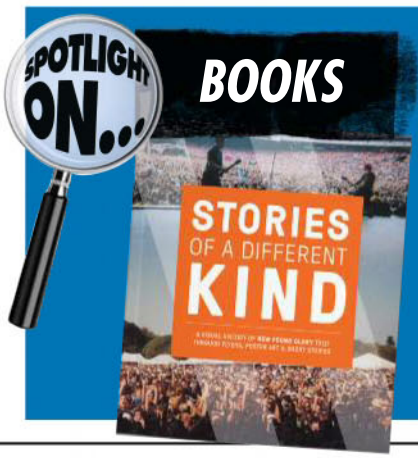
KKKK

DARK-HEARTED DEVON DOOMSTERS WADE WANTONLY BACK INTO THE ABYSS

■ FEW BANDS can claim to be as honestly infatuated with the night and its secrets as The Wounded Kings. Channelling the psych of some Stygian fever-dream, this fifth full-length comes daubed in shadow. Slow-shifting riffs roll like mist over the moors, while ominous synths and samples stoke the sense of dread. Even returning vocalist George Birch – accepting the thankless task of following the departed, hugely-distinctive Sharie Neyland – steps up with a sense of lustily vampiric gothic grandeur. Opening with the near-14-minute sprawl of Beast and scarcely narrowing its scope from there, Visions In Bone isn't much for immediacy. But hey, it's always the witching hour somewhere. So sit back. Unwind. Let the darkness seep in.

DOWNLOAD: Vultures, Vanishing Sea.
FOR FANS OF: Cathedral, Electric Wizard.

SAM LAW



WHO DOESN'T like a good book? Especially when its subject is a musical legend whose story is worth being told on the printed page. And right here we have two equally interesting but differently-crafted tomes on a pair of genuine icons of their field to sate your appetite.

First up are **NEW FOUND GLORY** with **STORIES OF A DIFFERENT KIND (KKKK)**. Rather than being a tell-all page-turner of a biography, instead the Florida pop-punk kings here recount their history using more visual means, charting their career using flyers, photos and other memorabilia, alongside the odd anecdote. It makes for a more engrossing read than you might initially think,

ON THE STEREO

1 THE AMITY AFFLICTION – ALL FUCKED UP
The Aussie metalcore quartet are pulling on the heartstrings with their latest single.

2 TOUCHÉ AMORÉ – SKYSCRAPER
Indulging their love for Leonard Cohen, plus vocals from folk artist Julien Baker, makes this song an absolute must-listen.

3 CHUNK! NO, CAPTAIN CHUNK! – BLAME IT ON THIS SONG
Pop-punk and tech-metal? No problem for this French quintet.

4 BIG JESUS – LOCK & KEY
It's kinda emo and kinda grunge. Which makes this track twice as good!

5 THE MENZINGERS – LOOKERS
We found it was impossible to have a bad day if you start it with this song. You're welcome!

DELAIN

MOONBATHERS *(NAPALM)*

KKKK

DUTCH SYMPHONIC ROCKERS COULD GET DIZZY ON FIFTH ALBUM

TEAM SPIRIT and endless roadwork have enabled Delain to turn a corner, and though recognisable, their sound on Moonbathers is more cohesive than on 2014's The Human Contradiction. As if training for the Olympics, they've filled out, shoving muscle into space, with The Glory And The Scum and Pendulum pushing towards the expanses of Nightwish. Obviously no sane person could dislike Delain's singer, the perfectly-pitched Charlotte Wessels, but most mainstream rock fans will now find their expansive, emotional music equally irresistible. Delain have been filling medium-sized venues around the world for years, but if anything's going to finally promote them to a higher level, it will be this – an album to challenge 2012's career-defining We Are The Others.

DOWNLOAD: Fire With Fire.
FOR FANS OF: Within Temptation, Amaranthe.

STEVE BEEBEE

BUDDERSIDE

BUDDERSIDE *(UDR)*

KK

LA ODDBALLS SERVE UP THE KITCHEN SINK WRAPPED IN BOMBASTIC THEATRICS

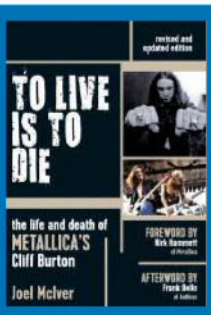
ANYONE TRYING to pigeonhole Budderside may well induce a hissy fit from the LA quartet, because they're trying hard to prevent it happening. Too hard, in fact. Traipsing melodramatically through prog, alt.rock, ska, power ballads, gritty punk and more, over the course of 10 tracks they come across as a little desperate. They just about manage to maintain a core sound, but not necessarily to their advantage. Pain, with its Social Distortion-esque riff, at least has some kick to it, as does Open Relationship, but the sub-Stone Temple Pilots chunder of X-Girlfriend and cheesy funk of My Religion are just horrible. This one definitely lands Budderside *down*.

DOWNLOAD: Pain.
FOR FANS OF: LostAlone, MCR.

DAN SLESSOR

enabling you to get just enough idea of what's going on from the artefacts to really build up a picture to accompany the stories in your mind.

For something a bit heavier, both in terms of reading and music, you can't go wrong with **TO LIVE IS TO DIE: THE LIFE AND DEATH OF METALLICA'S CLIFF BURTON (KKKK)**, Brit author



JOEL McIVER's fantastic biography of late-Metallica bassist Cliff Burton. Now updated (including a foreward by none other than Kirk Hammett), this is the definitive biography of the great man, charting his life from a youth, to being the man who agreed to join Metallica only if *they* came to *him* and relocated to San Francisco, to his untimely death in 1986. A fine salute, if ever there was one.

WORDS: NICK RUSKELL

Rob Zombie

HELLBILLY DELUXE: 13 TALES OF CADAVEROUS CAVORTING INSIDE THE SPOOKSHOW INTERNATIONAL (GEFFEN, 1998)

HOW THE DEVIL MAN WENT SOLO AND SCARED THE PANTS OFF METAL A SECOND TIME

WHILE SOME BANDS implode loudly and publicly, White Zombie fell apart with no one the wiser as to how utterly dysfunctional the relationship between the members had become over the final years of their existence. But rather than sitting around and licking his wounds, Rob Zombie got off his arse and went back to work, crafting a defining debut solo release. Maintaining the chunky riffing, horror movie kitsch and industrial touches of WZ's final release, Astro-Creep: 2000 (1995), Hellbilly Deluxe is a surprisingly fun album that is as immersive as it is catchy. With Rob's lyrics painting gleefully vivid pictures of ghouls, monsters and the undead involved in various warped scenarios, it makes for wonderful escapism, and that in 2016 Dragula, Living Dead Girl and Superbeast remain staples of his live set (and rock club dancefloors) speaks volumes. A horror movie for the ears, it really has aged magnificently, losing none of its (bonkers) charm along the way.

HAD YOU STARTED MAKING PLANS FOR THE RECORD PRIOR TO WHITE ZOMBIE'S SPLIT?

ROB ZOMBIE (*VOCALS*): "No. White Zombie's last tour was in '96 and then the band took a break for over a year, not even speaking to each other, and then the band just sort of ended and the break became permanent. After that I was like, 'Okay, *now* what am I going to do?' I hadn't planned anything at all, but it felt good to be able to do whatever I wanted. Bands are tricky, because they sometimes masquerade as a democracy, where everyone has to weigh in, but not everyone is really doing the same amount of work. To *not* have to go through that process was great."

DID YOU HAVE A VISION FOR WHAT YOU WANTED THE RECORD TO BE?

"It was a continuation of what I was trying to do with White Zombie. The stage show was really big and crazy and I wanted to keep going in that direction with the music too, but the other guys didn't want to do that anymore. They were down on some of my ideas, so I was like, 'Fine, I'll just do it myself.'"

WHEN YOU RECORDED THEM, DID YOU THINK THAT SINGLES DRAGULA AND LIVING DEAD GIRL WOULD BE AS BIG AS THEY WERE?

"No, you never know – and Living Dead Girl we'd actually sort of recorded and thrown away. We were still tracking and I found it on a cassette and said to the producer, 'This is pretty cool – why did we hate this?' So we went back and finished it. I always liked Dragula a lot, but I didn't know if anyone else would. While we were recording there would be things that were accidentally left on a recording while we tracked other parts, and I'd hear it back and think it was cool and leave it there. The whole writing of Dragula was something of an accident; I heard this piece of noise, and we looped it into the guitar parts and that became the basis of the song."

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE ALBUM LOOKING BACK ON IT NOW?

"I haven't listened to it from start to finish in a long time… but I was very proud of it at the time, because it sort of reinvented everything that I wanted to do. It's still popular with people, too, we play a lot of the songs live still and I enjoy them. It's actually the bestselling record of all the ones I've made, and having not known if people would even like it when we were making it, you could say things worked out great!"

Kerrang! Radio play it all at 10pm, August 25!

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

K!LOBBER

MU$T HAV£S

ALL THE BEST GEAR FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF PLANET ROCK AND BEYOND!

Ugh, you've got poo on your shoe! But don't worry, it's the very best kind of poo to have on your shoe.
$55 (£41.82) Etsy.com

Sometimes people come up with ideas for T-shirts, and we think, 'Very clever!' We've got five of these.
$19.99 (£15.37) Barbershopwindow.com

Bags are really good things. You can keep cool stuff in them, like sandwiches or feelings. Keep your tears at the lack of a MCR reunion in this satchel (but check to see if it's waterproof first).
£36.99 Rockmerchuniverse.com

If you're a boy racer that really likes Biffy Clyro, we can recommend no better gift than this Biffy Clyro license plate. Come back soon for Biffy Clyro furry dice, maybe.
£39.99 Store.biffyclyro.com

Black Peaks' music makes our head hurt. In a good way. This T-shirt is on point with their mind-bending wonder
£15 Blackpeaks.bigcartel.com

Probably the best album of all time, now reissued for its 40th birthday with loads of new stuff to read and cool photos to neb at. Get yours soon before Billie Joe Armstrong buys them all to re-floor his shed.
$64.98 (£49.93) Store.ramones.com

Admittedly, 5SOS man Luke Hemmings is better than us at most things. But definitely not making rock magazines.
£8.99 Etsy.com

These Josh Dun stickers are ace. You can buy a bunch of them, too, meaning you could stick one each on the back of a beetle and see who's the fastest.
£2.37 Etsy.com

You Me At Six are starting to rear their head again, which is exciting. Time for a new T-shirt, depicting the boys as handsome penguins, then…
£5 Grindstore.com

Did the AT-ATs in that new Rogue One trailer get you all like, 'Whoa!' and 'Yeah!'? Us too. Buy this, then head over to this page's sidebar.
£44.99 8ball.co.uk

Good point, well made. MAKE AMERICA EMO AGAIN.
£2.76 Etsy.com

This All Time Low shirt was designed by Alex when partaking in a spot of DIY, resulting in him hitting his thumb with a hammer.
£15 Alltimelow.tmstor.es

No Man's Sky could be the most mind-blowing game we've ever played. It's basically Destiny redesigned by Attenborough.
£46 Amazon.co.uk

Got big holes in your earlobes? Here's a simple solution. Gotta plug 'em all!
£14.20 Etsy.com

Look at all this cool shit you get if you buy the super-duper bundle for A Day To Remember's new album, Bad Vibrations. Not sure if you'll like the album, though? Head to p50 for our review, and we reckon it'll drag you over the line.
£66.99 Impericon.com

It's a Creeper shirt! That glows in the dark! Good for looking like a cool-ass spooky kid. Bad for playing hide-and-seek.
£15 Creepercult.bigcartel.com

The panda bit in Suicide Squad is a good bit in a bad film. What does this teach us? Save the pandas!
£15.99 Merchoid.com

STAR WARS™ ROGUE ONE

DID YOUR EYES FALL OUT OF YOUR HEAD WHEN YOU WATCHED THAT TRAILER? OURS TOO! ARGH. OUR EYES!

You know that bit in Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge Of The Sith, where Vader gets all kitted out in his Vader swag, and he's all like, 'NOOOOOO'? That's 'cause he'd started to run a bath but had forgotten his Star Wars bath bombs, that is.
£8.68 Etsy.com

It's a well-known fact (that we've just made up) that Ewoks are absolutely bat-shit for toast. They love the stuff! If only they had this awesome Darth Vader toaster. The little fuckers could eat crusts until their hair curls!
$36.50 (£28.05) Amazon.com

This poster sports the second AT-AT on this page this week. Can you tell we're really excited about seeing AT-ATs on the big screen again? Note to Disney: can we have some Rancors at some point? Maybe even a Wampa, too?
£39 Etsy.com

This Rogue One poster might be convenient if a) you haven't already bought the AT-AT poster or b) if you have already bought the AT-AT poster, but you need lots of posters, perhaps to cover up a void to a demon lair that has sprung up on your bedroom wall. They can be nasty.
£6.99 Amazon.co.uk

This is a book that tells you the story of Rogue One. Our advice? You should probably watch the film first. Normally speaking, films are better than books. We know they tell you otherwise at school, but they also tell you that school days are the best days of your lives, which just goes to suggest that teachers must lead pretty shitty lives.
£13.59 Amazon.co.uk

Here is another book about Rogue One. This claims to be The Ultimate Visual Guide. That sounds pretty lofty, doesn't it? We reckon it's probably pretty good, full of costume designs and ship blueprints. But, anyway, if it's crap, you can always use it to level up a table with a wonky leg.
£12.59 Amazon.co.uk

DON'T MISS

GOOD CHARLOTTE

THE REUNITED POP-PUNK TITANS WILL BE BRINGING PLENTY OF SING-ALONGS TO THEIR UK HEADLINE SHOWS...

HEY, BENJI! THESE WILL BE GOOD CHARLOTTE'S FIRST UK HEADLINE SHOWS IN YEARS – ARE YOU READY?

BENJI MADDEN (*GUITAR/VOCALS*): "Yeah, I feel really ready! We're excited to get back and play for the UK. Some of the best crowds are in the UK, and it has been a really long time since we've done headlining shows over there. We had a really great time in February with All Time Low, and that was just a little taste of what's to come. The whole band are excited to get back."

WE'RE EXCITED, TOO! WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THE GOOD CHARLOTTE LIVE SHOW IN 2016?

"These days, the live show is just so much fun! You can tell that all five of us really want to be onstage together, and we're enjoying playing with each other. You can really feel the camaraderie, and I think it's something that you just can't fake. It's a really great feeling, and I think the crowds can tell how much fun we've been having together."

THESE HEADLINE SHOWS ARE A PERFECT WARM-UP FOR READING & LEEDS, WHERE YOU HEADLINE THE LOCK UP STAGE...

"When we were talking about doing Reading & Leeds, we thought headlining the Lock Up Stage would be the coolest way for us to come back into the scene there, at such a legendary festival. We're putting on a special set for our crowd, so we hope everyone who comes out to see us really enjoys it! It's one of those benchmark shows that you'll never forget."

> ***"YOU CAN TELL HOW MUCH FUN WE'RE HAVING ONSTAGE!"***
> **BENJI MADDEN**

YOUR NEW ALBUM, YOUTH AUTHORITY, IS FINALLY OUT, SO WHAT KIND OF SET LIST CAN FANS EXPECT?

"We're going to try and do a mix of the classics and the hits along with the new songs. We'll play, like, two or three new songs from Youth Authority, but we know that people want to hear the hits, so we're going to try to do a good mix. It'll be a good set, though, with plenty of sing-alongs for everybody!"

HOW DO YOU FIND TIME BETWEEN FILMING THE VOICE AUSTRALIA, RUNNING YOUR MANAGEMENT COMPANY, MDDN, AND PLAYING WITH GOOD CHARLOTTE?

"Managing our time is done with a lot of great people on our team that help us figure out what our priorities are, and how to make everything work. The Voice doesn't take as much time as you'd think, because you can kinda film everything and then get back to your work. As far as the management and label goes, we've got an amazing team of talented people that work with us and the bands themselves. We work with incredible artists that are easy and fun to work with. The playing in Good Charlotte is almost like a hobby at this point; when we go back to GC, that's our baby and we get to be kids and have fun again."

FINALLY, WHEN CAN WE EXPECT YOU GUYS BACK IN THE UK AFTER THIS?

"These shows are definitely a warm-up, and we'll be coming back to the UK next year. In 2017 we'll be bringing the full show – we can't wait!"

DATES: O2 Academy Glasgow August 24, O2 Ritz Manchester 25, Leeds Festival Bramham Park 26, O2 Institute Birmingham 27, Reading Festival Richfield Avenue 28.

PHOTO: GETTY

YOUR WEEK!

KERRANG! DAY AUGUST 24

BRIGHTON Citizen, Big Jesus (Sticky Mike's Frog Bar)
GLASGOW Good Charlotte, Waterparks (O2 Academy Glasgow)
HULL Beach Slang (Adelphi)
LONDON Coheed And Cambria, La Dispute, mewithoutYou (O2 Forum Kentish Town)
LONDON State Champs, Water Canvas (Underworld, Camden)
OXFORD Lower Than Atlantis, Milk Teeth, Strange Bones (O2 Academy2 Oxford)
PLYMOUTH I Killed The Prom Queen, The Browning, Feed Her To The Sharks (Hub)
SOUTHAMPTON Arch Enemy, Soilwork (Engine Rooms)

THURSDAY AUGUST 25

CHESTER FOES, We Never Learned To Live (Live Rooms)
HUDDERSFIELD Beach Slang (Parish)
LONDON Citizen (Lexington)
LONDON I Killed The Prom Queen, The Browning, Feed Her To The Sharks, Empires Fade, To Kill Achilles (Dingwalls, Camden)
LONDON Soilwork, Cypher16, Brutai (Underworld, Camden)
LONDON Sleeping With Sirens, State Champs (Union Chapel, acoustic show)
LONDON Third Eye Blind (O2 Academy Islington)
LONDON Thrice, Milk Teeth, Greywind (O2 Forum Kentish Town)
MANCHESTER Good Charlotte, Waterparks, ROAM, Big Jesus (O2 Ritz Manchester)

FRIDAY AUGUST 26

BROMSGROVE Gethika, Garganjua, The Dead XIII, Prolapse A.D. (Beermageddon @ Stoke Prior)
LEEDS Biffy Clyro, Fall Out Boy, Five Finger Death Punch, Sleeping With Sirens, Coheed And Cambria, State Champs, Tonight Alive, Deaf Havana, Basement, Black Foxxes, Good Charlotte, The King Blues, Machine Gun Kelly, Arcane Roots, Modern Baseball, ROAM, Beach Slang, Waterparks, Greywind, Strange Bones, Fighting Caravans (Leeds Festival @ Bramham Park)
LONDON Eagles Of Death Metal (O2 Forum Kentish Town)
READING twenty one pilots, Lower Than Atlantis, Asking Alexandria, Nothing But Thieves, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, Frank Turner And The Sleeping Souls, Thrice, Crossfaith Hacktivist, Nothing More, Dinosaur Pile-Up, Citizen, Superheaven, Creeper, Trash Boat, SWMRS, Muncie Girls (Reading Festival @ Richfield Avenue)
SOUTHAMPTON I Killed The Prom Queen, The Browning, Feed Her To The Sharks, To Kill Achilles (Social Club)

SATURDAY AUGUST 27

BIRMINGHAM Good Charlotte, Big Jesus, Waterparks (O2 Institute Birmingham)
BROMSGROVE Def Con One, Kambrium, Old Corpse Road, Demons Of Old Metal, Outright Resistance, Solitary, Cruel Humanity, Witch Tripper (Beermageddon @ Stoke Prior)
GLASGOW Biffy Clyro, Fall Out Boy, Wolf Alice, Cage The Elephant (Bellahouston Park)
LEEDS twenty one pilots, Lower Than Atlantis, Asking Alexandria, Nothing But Thieves, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, Frank Turner And The Sleeping Souls, Thrice, Crossfaith Hacktivist, Nothing More, Dinosaur Pile-Up, Citizen, Superheaven, Creeper, Trash Boat, SWMRS, Muncie Girls (Leeds Festival @ Bramham Park)
LONDON Machine Gun Kelly (O2 Academy Islington)
READING Red Hot Chili Peppers, Eagles Of Death Metal, Slaves, Parkway Drive, Skindred, Clutch, Sundara Karma, Mastodon, The Dillinger Escape Plan, Kvelertak, Giraffe Tongue Orchestra, Milk Teeth, Heck, Ghost Town, DEAD!, Big Spring, Brian Fallon & The Crowes (Reading Festival @ Richfield Avenue)

SUNDAY AUGUST 28

BROMSGROVE Anihilated, Haerken, Cambion, Shadow Flag, Eradikator, Burden Of The Noose, Mordrake, Spyder Byte (Beermageddon @ Stoke Prior)
LEEDS Red Hot Chili Peppers, Eagles Of Death Metal, Slaves, Parkway Drive, Skindred, Clutch, Sundara Karma, Mastodon, The Dillinger Escape Plan, Kvelertak, Giraffe Tongue Orchestra, Milk Teeth, Heck, Ghost Town, DEAD!, Big Spring, Brian Fallon & The Crowes (Leeds Festival @ Bramham Park)
READING Biffy Clyro, Fall Out Boy, Five Finger Death Punch, Sleeping With Sirens, Coheed And Cambria, State Champs, Tonight Alive, Deaf Havana, Basement, Black Foxxes, Good Charlotte, Arcane Roots, Modern Baseball, ROAM, Beach Slang, Waterparks, Greywind, Strange Bones, (Reading Festival @ Richfield Avenue)

MONDAY AUGUST 29

BIRMINGHAM SWMRS (Sunflower Lounge)

TUESDAY AUGUST 30

BIRMINGHAM PUP, Solids, Shit Present (Rainbow Courtyard)
GLASGOW SWMRS (Broadcast)
NEWCASTLE Modern Baseball (Cluny)

RIDER OF THE WEEK

BAND: The Hunna

The rising Brit-rockers better not drink too many Slush Puppies at once – we've heard brain-freeze can render even the best useless…

THE HUNNA

4 x clean towels
2 x pack of white socks
1 x yo-yo
Rizla
Grinder
1 x small chair for our BB-8 robot
Slush Puppie machine
24 x bottles of water
Coffee (Nescafé Azera, Douwe Egberts or other decent brand)
Manuka honey
Lemon and ginger tea
1 x bottle of semi-skimmed milk
Berocca
Tropical juice
Orange juice
Apple juice
2 x bottles of red wine
1 x crate of beer
1 x bottle of vodka
1 x bottle of Jack Daniel's
1 x bottle of Coca-Cola
1 x bottle of Fanta
Strawberries, grapes, apples and bananas
Baguettes
Pitta bread
Croissants
Spreadable butter
Roast chicken breast/pieces of ham
Tomatoes
1 x bag of salad
Skippy peanut butter
Doritos Chilli Heatwave
Doritos Cool Original
Mild salsa dip
Hot salsa dip
Sour cream dip
Cinnamon buns
Pot Noodles
Skittles
Mozzarella cheese

CAN'T GET TO A GIG?

THEN HERE'S SOME OTHER STUFF TO KEEP YOUR EYES/EARS BUSY

SUM 41: THE ANTHEMS

KERRANG! TV – AUGUST 28, *1PM*

If you go In Too Deep whilst watching this there is a 100 per cent chance that you'll end up with a Fat Lip from rocking out too much. The Kerrang! Tour 2016 headliners might give you some extra Motivation, too…

TAKE A VIDEO TOUR OF GREEN DAY'S RECORDING STUDIO

KERRANG.COM

Bang Bang! It's the comeback we've all been waiting for – Green Day! The punk legends take us on a video tour of where they recorded their brand-new album, Revolution Radio. Go inside what might be the album of the year…

THE GREATEST ANTHEMS EVER: THE TOP 100

KERRANG! TV – AUGUST 29, 12PM

It's the Bank Holiday and K! TV are treating you to the greatest anthems ever! You better warm-up those tonsils for a shed-load of '*whoa*'s, '*yeah-yeah*'s and '*ah-ah*'s. We recommend keeping some throat sweets on standby in case your voice hurts from all that singing!

MY FIRST GIG

WHO: RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS, BBC TELEVISION CENTRE CAR PARK, LONDON, APRIL 14, 2006

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU GET TO SEE ONE OF THE BIGGEST ROCK BANDS PLAY IN A CAR PARK, IS IT, JAMES VECK-GILODI?

JAMES VECK-GILODI, DEAF HAVANA

"I'd been to local gigs before to see bands that nobody had heard of, but this was the first proper big-name band that I ever saw. It was a weird first gig to go to, actually, because it was the Red Hot Chili Peppers playing a special live set for Top Of The Pops. I think it was a competition as far as the actual audience went, but my grandparents' friend's daughter used to work at Warner, and they got me a ticket to go and see them. There were only about 200 people there and it was outside in the car park, so it was a really weird but pretty amazing one to go to.

"It wasn't a full set but I think they played for about 40 minutes and it was around the time of the Stadium Arcadium album. Apart from that, it was just like an ordinary gig. We went in, they played for 40 minutes and then we left and the whole thing was shown on TV a little bit later.

"It was amazing, because they were one of my favourite bands. I wouldn't say they still are now but I still love that early stuff and especially the John Frusciante-era. It had a big impact on me because they were my favourite band and he was my favourite guitarist. It didn't make me want to be in a band, as such, because we were already messing around at school trying to put a band together, but it definitely spurred me on."

GENERAL ADMISSION

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS PHOTO: GETTY

MY VENUE

THE CAVERN
EXETER
83 – 84 QUEEN STREET, EXETER, EX4 3RP
PIPPA WRAGG, *CO-OWNER*

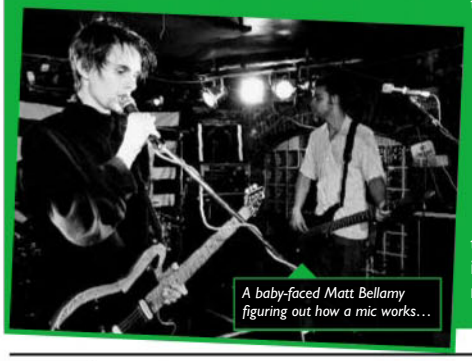
HEY, PIPPA! HOW DID THE CAVERN START ITS LIFE?
"The Cavern was set up in 1991 as a place to put on punk and indie shows. We were in bands ourselves, and apart from local pubs we didn't have anywhere to programme gigs of the type that we were interested in. We'd toured a lot, and venues such as TJ's in Newport and the DIY venues in mainland Europe were a big influence. Our first Cavern show was the U.S. hardcore band Quicksand on Valentine's Day 1991, and since then we've staged around 8,000 gigs – including many return visits from Quicksand frontman Walter Schreifels."

WHAT'S IT LIKE RUNNING A VENUE?
"It's a very complex business. People are obviously drawn to genres, and although you can have certain types of music on certain nights of the week, each show has to stand or fall on its own merits, which makes things quite work-intensive. It's very different from a regular bar where you create one identity that people buy into."

Cavern shows that took place in the mid-to-late-'90s. Chris [Martin] from Coldplay was also an Exeter local and their show in 1999, just after Yellow was released, was also something special. We have always been interested in the political side of music, being primarily a punk and DIY venue, and the 2003 Ladyfest Exeter show – with the likes of Bis and Snowpony, as well as art exhibitions and a zine convention – was significant in the club's development. It all forms an important part of our current beliefs and ideology."

IS THE FUTURE LOOKING GOOD FOR THE CAVERN?
"I think there are some political changes happening regarding how the cultural significance of grassroots venues is viewed, and that might be something that affects what we do. Organisations like the Music Venues Alliance are doing a great job raising awareness of some of the issues surrounding small venues, and the way they're promoting a united front will undoubtedly strengthen the music scene in general."

YOU'VE HAD QUITE A LOT OF BIG UK BANDS START THEIR CAREERS THERE, TOO...
"Muse were an Exeter-based band, so it was great to see them rise to success through a whole bunch of


A baby-faced Matt Bellamy figuring out how a mic works...

U.S. and overseas bands touring in the UK – we'd have Explosions In The Sky going out of one door while Minus The Bear walked through the other! When the banking collapse happened, a lot of the labels were unable to give the kind of tour support to bands that they used to, and touring in the UK became a lot more difficult."

FINALLY, WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE IN 2016?
"Economic downturns have had a bad effect. For example, in the mid-2000s there were many more

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3 DOORS DOWN
O2 Academy Bristol November 2, O2 Academy Birmingham 3, Manchester Academy 5, London Eventim Apollo 6. Support: Pop Evil.

65DAYSOFSTATIC
London Islington Assembly Hall November 14, Bristol Marble Factory 15, Sheffield Plug 16, Newcastle University 17, Glasgow Art School 18.

AGAINST THE CURRENT
Bristol Fleece September 21, Glasgow Garage 22, Newcastle Riverside 23, Leeds Stylus 24, Belfast Mandela Hall 26, Dublin Academy 27, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 28, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 30, Birmingham Asylum October 1, Manchester Academy II 2. Support: As It Is, Beach Weather.

AIRBOURNE
Portsmouth Pyramids November 17, Norwich UEA 18, Nottingham Rock City 19, O2 Institute Birmingham 21, O2 Academy Leeds 22, O2 Academy Newcastle 23, Glasgow Barrowlands 24, O2 Ritz Manchester 26, London Camden Electric Ballroom 28 – 29.

ALIEN ANT FARM
Wakefield Warehouse October 18, Edinburgh La Belle Angele 19, Aberdeen Garage 20, Belfast Empire 21, Dublin Voodoo Lounge 22, Preston 53 Degrees 24, Bristol Marble Factory 25, Chester Live Rooms 26, Leamington Spa Assembly 27, Southampton Engine Rooms 28, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 30, London O2 Academy Islington 31, Barnstaple Factory November 2, Reading Sub 89 3, Southend Chinnery's 4, Hull Welly 5, O2 Academy Oxford 6. Support: (hed) p.e., Sumo Cyco, Kaliedo.

ALL HAIL THE YETI
London O2 Academy Islington November 9, Bristol Exchange 10, Cardiff Fuel Club 11, Cheltenham 2 Pigs 12, Edinburgh La Belle Angele 13, Doncaster Diamond Lounge 14, Oxford Wheatsheaf 15.

ALL THEM WITCHES
Bristol Thekla October 2, Manchester Deaf Institute 3, London Scala 4, Brighton Haunt 6, Leeds Brudenell Social Club 7, Glasgow Classic Grand 8, Nottingham Bodega 9.

ALTER BRIDGE
Manchester Arena November 23, London O2 Arena 24, Nottingham Motorpoint Arena 26, Birmingham Genting Arena 27, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 28, Glasgow SSE Hydro December 1, Leeds First Direct Arena 2. Support: Volbeat, Gojira, Like A Storm.

THE AMITY AFFLICTION
O2 Academy Bristol December 4, O2 Ritz Manchester 5, London Camden Roundhouse 6, O2 ABC Glasgow 8, O2 Institute Birmingham 9, Norwich Waterfront 10. Support: Northlane, Stray From The Path, Wage War.

ANATHEMA
Holmfirth Picturedrome November 4, Cardiff Globe 5, Brighton Haunt 6, Leamington Spa Assembly 7, Reading Sub89 8, Southampton Engine Rooms 15.

APOCALYPTICA
Manchester Bridgewater Hall February 27, 2017, Edinburgh Queens Hall 28, London Royal Festival Hall March 1.

ARCHITECTS
O2 Institute Birmingham November 11, Manchester Academy 12, O2 ABC Glasgow 13, Nottingham Rock City 15, O2 Academy Bristol 17, London O2 Academy Brixton 18. Support: Bury Tomorrow, Stick To Your Guns.

AVENGED SEVENFOLD
Dublin 3Arena January 7, 2017, Glasgow SSE Hydro 10, Newcastle Metro Radio Arena 12, Birmingham Genting Arena 13, Sheffield Arena 15, Manchester Arena 16, Nottingham Motorpoint Arena 18, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 19, London O2 Arena 21. Support: Disturbed, In Flames.

BAND OF SKULLS
Leeds Stylus October 20, Manchester Albert Hall 21, Newcastle Northumbria University 22, London Camden Roundhouse 26, Southampton Engine Rooms November 17.

BATTLE OF THE BAYS
Line-up: Obituary, Exodus, Prong, King Parrot. London Camden Electric Ballroom October 25, Glasgow Garage 27, Manchester Academy2 28, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 29, Southampton Engine Rooms 30.

BEARTOOTH
London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire December 8, Leeds Beckett 9, Glasgow Garage 10, O2 Institute Birmingham 11, O2 Ritz Manchester 12, Southampton Engine Rooms 13, Cardiff TramShed 14, Dublin Academy 16, Belfast Limelight 17. Support: Vanna, Trash Boat.

BESTIVAL
Line-up: Creeper, Fatherson, K.Flay, Milk Teeth, Moose Blood, Pretty Vicious, PUP. Isle Of Wight Robin Hill Country Park September 8 – 11.

BILLY TALENT
Norwich UEA October 12, O2 Academy Bristol 13, Manchester Academy 15, O2 ABC Glasgow 16, O2 Academy Newcastle 17, O2 Institute Birmingham 19, O2 Academy Leeds 20, Nottingham Rock City 22, London Camden Roundhouse 23, Cardiff TramShed 24, O2 Guildhall Southampton 26. Support: Young Guns, Say Yes.

BLACK FOXXES
Leeds Brudenell Games Room October 16, Liverpool Arts Club2 17, Newcastle Think Tank? 19, Glasgow Cathouse 20, Birmingham Sunflower Lounge 23, Southampton Joiners 26, London Boston Music Rooms 28, Exeter Cavern 29, Bristol Exchange 30.

BLACK PEAKS / HECK
Huddersfield Parish September 4, Bristol Fleece 6, London Boston Music Room 7 – 8, Sheffield Plug 9, Edinburgh Electric Circus 10, Aberdeen Cafe Drummonds 11, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 13, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 17, Southampton Talking Heads 18.

BLACK SABBATH
Manchester Arena January 22, 2017, Glasgow SSE Hydro Arena 24, Leeds Arena 26, O2 Arena London 29 and 31, Birmingham Genting Arena February 2 and 4. Support: Rival Sons.

BLACK STONE CHERRY
Cardiff St David's Hall November 19, Portsmouth Guildhall 21, Wolverhampton Civic Hall 22, O2 Apollo Manchester 24, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall 25, Newcastle City Hall 27, Sheffield City Hall 28, Brighton Dome 30, Nottingham Royal Concert Hall December 1, Bristol Colston Hall 2, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 5 – 6, Norwich UEA 8.

BLOOD YOUTH
Manchester Star & Garter September 26, Glasgow Garage Attic 27, Newcastle Cluny 2 28, Liverpool Studio2 29, Leeds Key Club 30, Norwich Epic Studios October 2, Bournemouth Anvil 3, Guildford Boileroom 4, Tunbridge Wells Forum 5, London Boston Music Room 6, Birmingham Asylum2 7. Support: ZOAX.

BLUES PILLS
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms November 1, Glasgow Classic Grand 2, Manchester Club Academy 5, London Camden KOKO 6, Bristol Marble Factory 8.

BOB MOULD
O2 Academy2 Birmingham October 7, Bristol SWX 8, Glasgow Garage 10, Sheffield Leadmill 11, London Brooklyn Bowl 12.

BORN OF OSIRIS
Leeds Key Club September 11, Glasgow Classic Grand 12, Manchester Sound Control 13, Cardiff Globe 14, London O2 Academy Islington 15. Support: Veil Of Maya, Volumes, Black Crown Initiate.

BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE
Newport Centre November 24, O2 Academy Newcastle 27, O2 Academy Glasgow 30, Manchester Academy December 3 – 4, O2 Academy Birmingham 6, London O2 Academy Brixton 9. Support: Killswitch Engage, Cane Hill.

BUTSERFEST
Line-up: Mallory Knox, Young Guns, FVK, Creeper, WSTR, Crooks, Ashestoangels, As It Is, Moose Blood, Our Hollow, Our Home, ZOAX. Petersfield Queen Elizabeth Country Park September 10.

CASEY
Manchester Factory September 22, Sheffield Corporation 23, London Old Blue Last 24, Bournemouth Anvil 25.

DAMNATION FESTIVAL
Line-up: Enslaved, Ne Obliviscaris, Full Of Hell, Oceans Of Slumber. Leeds University Union November 5.

DANCE GAVIN DANCE
O2 Academy2 Oxford November 3, Brighton Haunt 4, O2 Institute3 Birmingham 5, Southampton Engine Rooms 6, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 8, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 9, Manchester Sound Control 10, Glasgow Garage 11, Leeds Key Club 12, Cardiff Globe 14, Bristol Fleece 15, London Camden Underworld 16.

DEAD KENNEDYS
O2 Academy Oxford October 12, London O2 Islington Academy 13 – 14.

EMAROSA
London Borderline September 25, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 26, Manchester Sound Control 27, Glasgow G2 28, O2 Institute3 Birmingham 29.

YOU ME AT SIX

O2 Academy Bristol October 4, Folkestone Leas Cliff Hall 5, Swansea Brangwyn Hall 6, Belfast Limelight 9, Dublin Academy 10, Nottingham Rock City 13, O2 Academy Oxford 14, Cambridge Corn Exchange 15, Inverness Ironworks 17, O2 Academy Leeds 18, Liverpool Guild Of Students 19, O2 Academy Sheffield 20, Middlesbrough Empire 21, O2 Guildhall Southampton 23, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 24.

JUST ANNOUNCED

BIG JESUS
London Old Blue Last September 1.

DEAD LETTER CIRCUS
London Tufnell Park Dome October 14, Birmingham Rainbow 15, Glasgow G2 16, Bristol Exchange 17, Portsmouth Drift 18.

EMAROSA
Support added: SYKES.

FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES
Manchester Gorilla November 2, Edinburgh Bongo Club 3, Aberdeen Tunnels 4, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 6, Leeds Key Club 7, Bristol Fleece 8, London Camden Electric Ballroom 10, Bournemouth Winchester 11, Oxford Bullingdon 13, Brighton Concorde2 14, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 15.

NEUROSIS
London Camden KOKO November 7 – 8. Support: Earth (7 only), Discharge and Subhumans (8 only).

ROAM
Nottingham Basement November 14, Leeds Key Club 15, Manchester Sound Control 16, Glasgow Audio 17, Newcastle Think Tank? 18, Swansea Sin City 19, Birmingham Courtyard 20, Norwich Epic Studios 22, Bristol Exchange 23, London Camden Underworld 24, Brighton Patterns 25, Southampton Joiners 26, Dublin Fibbers Magees 27, Galway Rosin Dubh 28, Belfast Voodoo 29. Support: Like Pacific (14 – 26), Columbus (15 – 26), WSTR (27 – 29).

SLAVES
Bexhill De La Warr Pavillion November 10, Truro Hall For Cornwall 11, Cardiff University Great Hall 13, Cambridge Corn Exchange 14, O2 Academy Leeds 15, O2 Academy Newcastle 17, Glasgow Barrowlands 18, O2 Academy Birmingham 19, O2 Academy Bristol 21, O2 Academy Leicester 22, Nottingham Rock City 23, O2 Academy Sheffield 25, Manchester Albert Hall 26, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 29 – 30.

EMMA BLACKERY
London O2 Academy2 Islington October 23, Manchester Sound Control 24, O2 ABC2 Glasgow 25, O2 Academy3 Birmingham 26.

EMP PERSISTENCE TOUR 2017
Line-up: Suicidal Tendencies, Agnostic Front. London O2 Forum Kentish Town January 29, 2017.

EVERY TIME I DIE
Southend Chinnery's December 8, Norwich Owl Sanctuary 9, London Brooklyn Bowl 10, Brighton Haunt 11, Cardiff Globe 12, Derby Venue 14, Doncaster Vintage Bar 15, Leeds Brudenell Social Club 16, Manchester Gorilla 17, Glasgow King Tut's 18, Newcastle Riverside 19, Huddersfield Parish 20.

THE FALL OF TROY
Nottingham Rescue Rooms September 9, Leeds Key Club 10, Glasgow Cathouse 11, Newcastle Think Tank? 13, London Scala 14, Bristol Fleece 15, Manchester Sound Control 16, Birmingham Asylum 17. Support: Tiny Moving Parts.

FARRO
Norwich Waterfront Studio November 17, Leeds Key Club 18, Newcastle Think Tank? 19, Glasgow Cathouse 20, Manchester Sound Control 22, Nottingham Bodega 23, Birmingham Rainbow 24, Kingston Fighting Cocks 25, Bath Moles 26, Southampton Joiners 28, London Borderline 29.

FEARLESS VAMPIRE KILLERS
London Camden Underworld October 30. Support: ZOAX, Ashestoangels.

FEED THE RHINO
Bristol Exchange September 20. London Boston Music Rooms 21, Southampton Joiners 22, Manchester Sound Control 24.

FIREBALL – FUELLING THE FIRE TOUR
Line-up: Less Than Jake, The Skints, Mariachi El Bronx, Kemuri (3 – 6), The Bennies (8 – 11). O2 Academy Bristol October 3, O2 Academy Sheffield 4, O2 Academy Birmingham 5, London O2 Academy Brixton 6, O2 Academy Newcastle 8, O2 Academy Glasgow 9, O2 Ritz Manchester 10, O2 Academy Bournemouth 11.

FORT FEST
Line-up: Lonely The Brave, InMe, Young Guns, Black Peaks, Arcane Roots, The Dirty Youth and more! Bedfordshire Thurleigh September 2 – 4.

GALACTIC EMPIRE
Brighton Patterns December 1, Southampton Talking Heads 2, Plymouth Hub 3, Bristol Fleece 4, Cardiff Globe 5, Sheffield Plug 6, O2 Academy3 Birmingham 7, Derby Venue 8, Liverpool Arts Club Loft 9, O2 ABC2 Glasgow 10, Dundee Buskers 11, Edinburgh Mash House 12, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 13, Leamington Spa Zephyr Lounge 14, Leicester Scholar 15, Bedford Esquires 16, Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms 17, Reading Sub 89 19, London O2 Academy Islington.

ICED EARTH
London Brixton Electric December 6. Support: Ensiferum, Kataklysm, Unearth.

I KILLED THE PROM QUEEN
Plymouth Hub August 24, London Camden Dingwalls 25, Southampton Social 26. Support: The Browning, Feed Her To The Sharks, Empires Fade, To Kill Achilles.

IMPERICON NEVER SAY DIE! TOUR
Line-up Whitechapel, Thy Art Is Murder, Carnifex, Obey The Brave, Fallujah, Make Them Suffer, Polar. London Electric Ballroom November 6, Manchester Club Academy 7, Glasgow Garage 8, Bristol Marble Factory 9.

KATATONIA
London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire October 21.

KILLING JOKE
London O2 Academy Brixton November 4.

KREATOR
Manchester Academy February 28, 2017, Dublin Vicar Street March 1, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 2. Support: Sepultura, Soilwork, Aborted.

KVELERTAK
Manchester Sound Control December 2. Sheffield Corporation 3, O2 ABC2 Glasgow 4, London Camden Electric Ballroom 5.

L7
O2 Ritz Manchester September 10. London O2 Forum Kentish Town 13.

LACUNA COIL
Bristol Marble Factory November 10, London Camden KOKO 11, O2 Institute2 Birmingham 13, Newcastle Riverside 14, Glasgow Garage 15, Manchester Academy II 16, Southampton 1865 18.

LONELY THE BRAVE
Brighton Haunt October 3, Southend Chinnery's 4, London Camden Electric Ballroom 6, Bristol Marble Factory 7, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 10, Glasgow King Tut's 11, O2 Academy2 Leicester 14, Leeds Key Club 15, O2 Academy2 Oxford 18, Hull Welly 19, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 21. Support: Tall Ships.

MEMPHIS MAY FIRE / THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA / SILVERSTEIN
Norwich Waterfront November 29, London Camden KOKO 30, Manchester Academy2 December 1, Newcastle Riverside 2, Glasgow Garage 3, Birmingham Asylum 5, Leeds Stylus 6, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 7, O2 Bristol Academy 9, Southampton Engine Rooms 10. Support: Like Moths To Flames.

MESHUGGAH
O2 Academy2 Bristol January 12, 2017, O2 Institute Birmingham 13, Nottingham Rock City 14, O2 ABC Glasgow 15, Belfast Limelight 17, Dublin Academy 10, O2 Ritz Manchester 19, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 20.

MODERN BASEBALL
Newcastle Cluny August 30, Edinburgh Mash House 31, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach September 1.

MOOSE BLOOD
O2 Institute2 Birmingham October 3, Glasgow Garage 4, O2 Academy2 Sheffield 5, Cardiff Y Plas 6, London Camden KOKO 7, Manchester Academy II 8. Support: Boston Manor, Turnover, Luca Brasi.

MUNCIE GIRLS
Birmingham Rainbow November 25, Leeds Brudenell Games Room 26, Newcastle Think Tank? 27, Glasgow King Tut's 28, Manchester Sound Control 29, London Camden Underworld 20, Exeter Cavern December 1.

NASTY
Manchester Sound Control October 23, Glasgow G2 24, Birmingham Rainbow 25, London Camden Underworld 26. Support: Aversions Crown, Malevolence, Vitja, Sand.

NOTHING BUT THIEVES
O2 Institute Birmingham November 30, Manchester Academy December 1, London O2 Academy Brixton 2. Support: Airways.

OF MICE & MEN
O2 Academy Birmingham September 30, O2 Apollo Manchester October 1, Nottingham Rock City 3, O2 Academy Newcastle 4, O2 Academy Glasgow 5, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 7, Cardiff Great Hall 9. Support: Crown The Empire, Hands Like Houses.

PANIC! AT THE DISCO
O2 Apollo Manchester November 17, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 18, London Alexandra Palace 19 – 20.

PIERCE THE VEIL
Cardiff Great Hall November 25, O2 Academy Birmingham 26, London O2 Academy Brixton 27, Nottingham Rock City 29, O2 Academy Newcastle 30, Glasgow Barrowlands December 1, Manchester Academy 2, Belfast Mandela Hall 4, Dublin Academy 5 – 6. Support: letlive., Creeper.

PUP
Birmingham Rainbow Courtyard August 30, Bristol Exchange September 1, Manchester Sound Control 4, Leeds Brudenell Social Club 5, Nottingham Bodega 7, London Dome Tufnell Park 9.

REAL FRIENDS
London Camden Electric Ballroom December 9, Birmingham Asylum 10, Newcastle Riverside 11, Glasgow Sain Luke's 13, Manchester Club Academy 14, Leeds Stylus 15, Bristol Thekla 16, Southampton Engine Rooms 17. Support: Knuckle Puck, With Confidence.

RED FANG
Brighton Concorde2 September 26, London Camden KOKO 27, Bristol Bierkeller 28, Leeds Stylus 29, Manchester Academy II 30, O2 Institute2 Birmingham October 2, Glasgow Garage 3, Newcastle Riverside 4, Southampton Engine Rooms 5. Support: Torche, God Damn.

ROB ZOMBIE
London O2 Forum Kentish Town October 17.

SABATON
Dublin Vicar Street January 10, 2017, O2 Academy Glasgow 11, O2 Apollo Manchester 13, London O2 Academy Brixton 14. Support: Accept.

SCORPION CHILD
London Borderline October 30, Chester Live Rooms November 1, Manchester Sound Control 2, Sheffield Corporation 3, Newcastle Think Tank? 4, Birmingham Rainbow Courtyard 5, Norwich Waterfront Studio 6, Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms 7. Support: Jared James Nichols, The Bad Flowers.

SKILLET
London Camden KOKO December 9.

STATE CHAMPS
London Camden Underworld August 24.

STEVEN BATTELLE
London St. Pancras Old Church November 24.

SUICIDE SILENCE
Manchester Club Academy November 24, Glasgow Garage 25, O2 Birmingham Academy2 26, Bristol Marble Factory 27, Southampton Engine Rooms 28, London Camden KOKO 29. Support: Caliban.

SWMRS
Birmingham Sunflower Lounge August 29, Glasgow Broadcast 30, Edinburgh Electric Circus 31, Manchester Deaf Institute September 1, Liverpool Studio 2 2, Norwich Owl Sanctuary 3, Nottingham Bodega 5, Southampton Joiners 6, Bristol Thekla 7, London Islington Garage 8.

TWIN ATLANTIC
Newcastle University October 7, Manchester Neighbourhood Festival 8, Cardiff Y Plas 9, O2 Institute Birmingham 11, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 12, Portsmouth Pyramids 14, Leeds Beckett University 15, Norwich Waterfront 16, Dublin Academy December 10, Belfast Limelight 11, Glasgow Barrowlands 13 – 15.

YELLOWCARD
O2 Academy Bristol December 11, O2 ABC Glasgow 12, O2 Ritz Manchester 14, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 15, Nottingham Rock City 17, O2 Institute Birmingham 18.

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NEXT WEEK

ON SALE AUGUST 31

EDITORIAL

WHAT'S BETTER: READING OR LEEDS? AND WHY?!

EDITOR: James McMahon *(Leeds is better, because Yooooooooorkshire)*
DEPUTY EDITOR: George Garner *(Leeds, because it's in THE NORTH)*
ART EDITOR: Steve Beech *(Reading, because it's the original and the best)*
FEATURES EDITOR: Sam Coare *(The one time I went to Leeds, there was a riot. So Reading)*
ASSOCIATE EDITOR (REVIEWS): Nick Ruskell *(Reading. It's closer to the utopia of Farnborough)*
DEPUTY ART EDITOR: Matt Dykzeul *(Never been to either, but Leeds wins because of the Well)*
NEW MUSIC EDITOR/EDITORIAL ASSISTANT/SUB: Emily Carter *(Leeds because they have an amazing risotto stall and Northern people are great)*
DESIGNER: Sophie Bland *(Reading – it's closer to home)*
LISTINGS EDITOR: James Hingle *(Reading – it was my first-ever festival!)*
CONTRIBUTING ED: Katie Parsons *(Reading! You can pop into town and have a swim at the local leisure centre before heading back into the mosh-pit)*

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SCARLET BORG: Scarlet Borg.

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Amit Sharma.

INTERN OF THE WEEK: Nadia Goodlet. For all work experience opportunities, check out GoThinkBig.co.uk.

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THE ULTIMATE

ROCKSTAR TEST

JOEL O'KEEFFE

AIRBOURNE

THIS FRONTMAN MAY ONLY FLY ECONOMY, BUT HE WILL SPEND THOUSANDS ON ALCOHOL…

ON ROCK'N'ROLL...

HOW OFTEN DO YOU BLEED IN THE NAME OF ROCK'N'ROLL? A LOT, WE'RE GUESSING…

"Every show. My fingers get pretty mangled, and I once had blood pissing down my face for a whole show after smacking myself in the head with my guitar. I also fell off Iron Maiden's stage once, which fucked my back up. But, if you're gonna fall off a stage, you might as well make it Iron Maiden's."

WHAT'S THE MOST EPIC THING YOU'VE CLIMBED MID-SET?

"I climbed up the stage at Download during a thunderstorm once. Seeing that, I couldn't help thinking that the light show just got a whole lot better. I actually love the danger of being up there when that happens. I *love* the idea of being struck by lightning while hanging off the biggest piece of steel anywhere in the vicinity!"

HAVE YOU EVER SPENT A NIGHT IN A JAIL CELL?

"No, actually! The closest times were when I was a kid, we used to moon cars a lot – and police cars, in particular, so they'd chase us. Obviously we'd run for it, and never once did they catch up to us. I've grown out of doing that now – though I've been known to moon people from hotel rooms every now and then…"

And if you got caught, you could even say it was a bum rap…

ON FAILURES AND F'UPS...

YOU SURE LIKE OPENING BEER CANS WITH YOUR HEAD – HAVE YOU EVER KNOCKED YOURSELF OUT?

"No, but Heineken make these small, stubby cans that don't break, and I found that out the hard way. I don't really open them that way at home or down the pub with my mates – that'd get you thrown out – but when you've got a guitar in your hands it just seems like the easiest method."

Or you could just ask someone else to do it?

HAVE YOU EVER INJURED A BANDMATE? INTENTIONALLY OR UNINTENTIONALLY…

"No, though once I was running across the stage and bounced off something, which fell and broke the head off Roadsy's [Airbourne guitarist David Roads] axe, but he wasn't hurt. Me and my brother [drummer Ryan O'Keeffe] still scrap. I was here first, and the day he was born we went to war, and I don't see that one ending any time soon."

LIFESTYLES OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS...

HAS SIGNING AN AUTOGRAPH EVER GOTTEN YOU OUT OF TROUBLE?

"Sort of. After climbing the stage at Download the police wanted to talk to me, and for doing that I was told I could be fined £40,000, they could take my passport, all of this shit, but they let me off. And then the copper said, 'Now, my kid's a big fan of yours – can you sign this CD, please?'"

WHAT'S THE BIGGEST BAR TAB YOU'VE EVER RUN UP?

"I tend to pay cash instead of running up actual tabs, because if I leave my credit card behind the bar after a few drinks I leave without it. Then I'll be on the bus three countries away going, 'Ah fuck, I left my credit card back at that bar!' I'll happily drink until my pockets are empty, though."

We'll remember that…

ON THE HYPOTHETICAL...

HOW DO YOU THINK YOU'D DO IF YOU ACTUALLY HAD TO BREAK OUT OF HELL?

"I'd give it my best shot and do it like Steve McQueen in The Great Escape. I'd jump on that bike, rev it up nice and loud and try to jump over that hellish barbed wire. If I'm caught I'm caught, but I can tell you it wouldn't be for lack of trying!"

GIVEN YOUR BAND NAME, WOULD YOU LIKE TO ONE DAY BE SHOT OUT OF A CANNON?

"Actually, that *would* be fun. Maybe shot out of a cannon and into a large swimming pool of Johnnie Walker and coke? I've never bungee jumped because I don't trust the bungee cord – I like to be in control. But as long as they pointed the cannon in the right direction I'd be happy!"

Well, as far as we know, no such swimming pool exists… Sorry

SPIRITUAL HEADMELTER...

IS THERE ANY GOOD MUSIC IN HEAVEN?

"I think it'd probably be Mozart and stuff, but I'm probably not going there so I'm not worried. When I get to Hell, the first thing I'm doing is getting a band together – Lemmy on bass, [The Who's] Keith Moon on drums, [AC/DC's] Bon Scott on vocals, I'll handle rhythm guitar and [Ozzy guitarist] Randy Rhoads on lead. Now *that's* a band!"

As Bon once sang, 'Hell ain't a bad place to be.' He'd have been right with company like that…

"I LOVE THE IDEA OF BEING STRUCK BY LIGHTNING!"

JOEL O'KEEFFE

THE VERDICT

HE'LL CLIMB ANYTHING, DRINK ANYTHING AND STILL MANAGE TO ROCK OUR WORLD. JOEL, WE SALUTE YOU!

SCORE 93%

THE LEADERBOARD

1	AL JOURGENSEN MINISTRY	100%
2	ALICE COOPER	99%
3	BEN BRUCE ASKING ALEXANDRIA	98%
4	GENE SIMMONS KISS	93%
5	JOEL O'KEEFFE AIRBOURNE	93%
6	FRANK CARTER FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES	92%
7	CHAD NICEFIELD WILSON	92%
8	MORTIIS	90%
9	BERT McCRACKEN THE USED	86%
10	KELLIN QUINN SLEEPING WITH SIRENS	85%
11	BRENDON URIE PANIC! AT THE DISCO	85%
12	DENIS STOFF ASKING ALEXANDRIA	73%
13	TUOMAS HOLOPAINEN NIGHTWISH	70%
14	CHRIS ROBERTSON BLACK STONE CHERRY	52%

WORDS: DAN BLESSOR PHOTO: MARTIN PHILBEY

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